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# Texas Monthly



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# DECEMBER

1986 Volume 14, Issue 12



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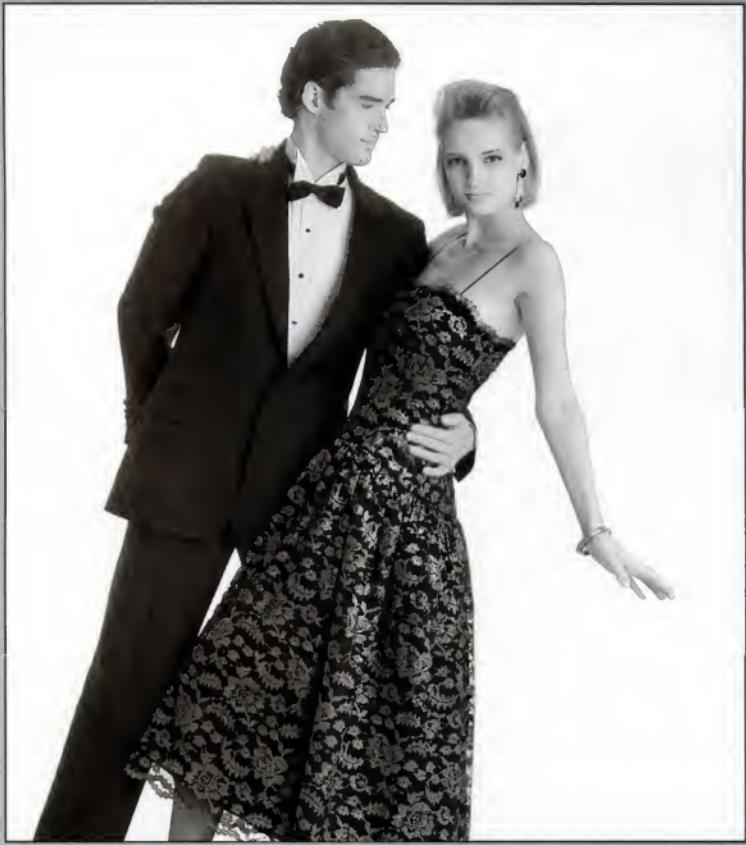
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# BEHIND THE LINES

*The power of polite discouragement.*

BY GREGORY CURTIS

The bleak skies over the North Texas ranching country shifted from gray to an ominous blue-black as I arrived in Archer City. I couldn't immediately be marked as an outsider, since the car I'd rented in Wichita Falls turned out to be a roomy non-compact, non-foreign Oldsmobile. Still, in a suit, tie, and starched shirt early on this gloomy October afternoon, I felt way too overdressed. I wasn't looking forward to the moment when I would have to roll down my window and ask someone whom I envisioned as a leathery and taciturn cowboy properly dressed in boots and jeans for directions to the Archer City Country Club. I was going there to attend a reception for Larry McMurtry. The Archer Chamber of Commerce had declared this Saturday Larry McMurtry day in honor of its hometown boy who this year had won the Pulitzer prize for *Lonesome Dove*.

Archer City is the most familiar place in Texas to the generation of moviegoers who made *The Last Picture Show*, which was filmed there, one of the most popular movies of 1971. Those who remember scenes in the cafe, the pool hall, and the picture show can see those meager buildings, now locked and empty or, in the case of the picture show, completely gutted, across the street from the stolid and graceless Archer County courthouse.

Larry grew up here. His novel and the resulting movie, for which he coauthored the screenplay, have given those decaying buildings a life of their own. The events in *The Last Picture Show* seem more real than anything that actually happened here. For someone like me, with no personal connection to the town, it is sad and disconcerting to see those strangely familiar buildings look so dismal, as if property that once belonged to one's family had been ruined by neglect.

Today, with rain starting to fall, the courthouse square seemed as black and white as the movie. There was no cowboy or anybody else about. The filling station was closed, everything was closed: One side of the white signboard on the courthouse lawn read, "Homecoming Oct 3 & 4/After game social at bank/Dinner SCH CAFE 6-8/Dance Legion Hall 9 to 1." These announcements indicated a weekend of typical autumn Texana. The other side had the less typical announcement

that had brought me here: "Larry McMurtry/Reception 2:30-4:30/Fellowship 900/Country Club."

But as I circled the courthouse I despaired of ever finding the country club. No one would be out in this rain, and I began to try to decide between following the roads toward the edge of town, hoping to catch sight of greens and fairways, or simply picking a house at random and, like a Bible salesman, knocking on the door.

As it turned out, I had too little faith in small-town hospitality. There, tied to a pole on a street corner across from the courthouse, was a large piece of cardboard for all to see, which was rapidly getting limp in the rain. "McMurtry Reception," it said in black hand-scratched letters, and a long black arrow below pointed the way. I followed similar signs around a turn or two, and suddenly I was parking in front of a massive brick house. Trying to stay dry, I ran across the parking lot to the front porch and pushed open the heavy wooden door. There, standing with a small group at the foot of a wide, polished stairway, was Larry. I had come because I owe Larry McMurtry a lot, and I'm writing this now because I think Texas owes him a lot as well.

Twenty years ago McMurtry taught me at Rice. At that time he was the only author I had ever met. (Once I found in an anthology a short story by a friend of friends of my parents'. When I asked about him, I was informed that he had lived very unhappily and in the end had committed suicide.) Only a few years older than his students were, Larry wore jeans and boots and walked like a cowboy, in an un hurried, ambling gait with his hips forward and his back and neck slouched in a long curve. He developed his own theory of teaching writing, a theory based on polite discouragement. Our pathetic poems and short stories seldom inspired much interest from him, yet incompetence didn't let us in for scorn or ridicule or even much criticism. Our talent—or lack of it—seemed not to be a factor in his opinion of us. We longed for his approval, but it was the rare assignment that would receive the ultimate accolade—being read aloud in class. He once said in class that the title of something I'd written was good, and so meager was his praise that I still remember that moment distinctly. The theory of polite discour-

agement was aggravating at the time, but now that I've seen students emerge from college writing classes in which they have been praised far too much for far too little, I understand the theory's wisdom. In retrospect, it's clear that Larry was able to hold to a high standard of quality without bruising tender collegiate egos too badly.

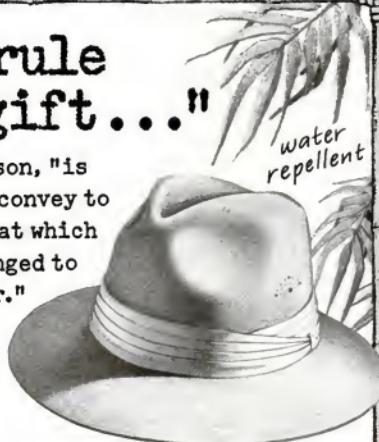
During the considerable amount of class time when he wasn't reading our manuscripts, Larry taught us by his own example what a writer's life was like. He read prodigiously. I had always read myself, but here was someone who seemed to have read all the books that I had, plus thousands upon thousands besides. Although he knew literary classics, his talk revealed a universe of writing beyond the classics whose vast stretches I had yet to explore. For use as rough guides, he distributed reading lists of books and magazines. I still have one. It's five pages long. The books are divided into classifications as diverse as "Travel," "Cartoons," "Autobiography," "Gothicism," and "Varied Delights," as well as the more expected "American Fiction," "Poetry," and "Criticism, Belles Lettres." There are still plenty of books here I would like to read but still haven't. He read to us from works in progress by writers around the country. He went through the correspondence between his editor and himself as one of his novels was readied for publication. And he read to us from the manuscript of the novel he was writing at the time, *The Last Picture Show*. He told us how many pages he tried to write a day—five—and what color of paper to use to avoid eyestrain—yellow. Then, as now, he knew an immense number of people, some famous, some wealthy or powerful, some eccentric, some with literary talent, and some with simple nervous energy. He described many of those people to us in vivid anecdotes, usually funny, that made his life seem one of endless provocative incidents involving extraordinary people. That was true as far as it went, but it was his telling that made everything so compelling. From this we learned that he wrote so well partly because he observed so well.

Larry is a collector and seller of rare books. I went with him a few times as he drove to secondhand stores and junk shops in distant corners of Houston, scouting for books. He had learned about

# "The rule for a gift..."

...said Emerson, "is  
that we might convey to  
some person that which  
properly belonged to  
his character."

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literature not only from reading but also from collecting, a fact that struck me with great force. These trips awakened in me an interest that continues to this day. The pleasure of poking around in dusty shops and the satisfaction in discovering hidden treasure have been constants in my life. It is astonishing to me, as I type this on yellow paper, how much of what I do derives from listening to Larry both in and out of class.

In the years since then, he has—through talent, hard work, and the strength of his personality—become Texas' leading literary figure. And no other American writer of stature is as tireless as he in missionary work for his art. In Texas he has traveled to lecture at colleges, junior colleges, civic gatherings, book clubs, and almost anywhere else he was invited. When he learned he had won the Pulitzer prize, he was in Uvalde at a writers' workshop. At such gatherings he shows the same courteous patience, the same balancing of standards against egos, that marked him in our class. In many cases he is the only writer—or artist of any kind—with a national reputation whom the people in his audience have ever seen. For many in the audience, the life of the imagination is either suspect or completely unknown. In his talks, he both explains and personifies that life. His effect on most who hear him will not be permanent, but for a few it will be profound. His restless travels across the state in the service of literature are a great gift that a native son is quietly and generously giving to Texas.

And for one day in Archer City, Texas returned the favor. About 1900 people live in the town. Around 400 appeared at the reception to stand in a long line—fortunately the rain had stopped—to shake his hand and have him sign copies of his books. Perhaps some of what he has written about small-town life has met with less than praise in Archer City, but for now there was nothing but warm feeling. The afternoon included a brief ceremony. The chamber of commerce presented a plaque to Larry, and the mayor read a proclamation declaring this Larry McMurtry Day and gave him a key to the city. "I have to tell you," Larry said to the gathering, "that this award moves me more and surprises me more than winning the Pulitzer prize. It's one thing to write a book that appeals to the taste of the people on the prize committee. It's harder to earn the respect of people who know you. The myth is that small towns in America don't care about their writers and are small-minded and intolerant. But here I am, a writer being honored by his hometown. In a sense, you have all helped me with this award. I don't know if I've ever used a literal event that has happened in this town, but what I have used are the intimations and the hunches you've given me."

Would that we all could make so much of our heritage and work as hard to honor and enrich it. \*



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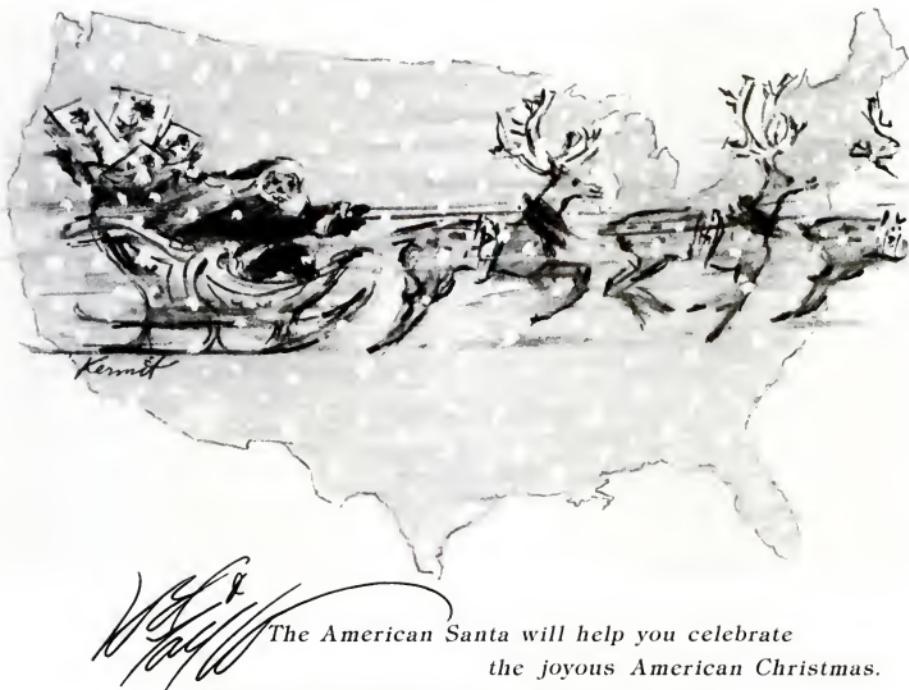
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# THE ROAR OF THE CROWD

## A TALE OF TWO TEXANS

After reading Peter Elkind's excellent "Going for Broke" [TM, October 1986], I went back and studied the cover illustration by Lou Beach. One can almost guess the contents of the article by examining the picture. John Connally is sitting on the better horse, is more flashily dressed, more sober. Ben Barnes' attire suits him well, along with the halfhearted smile. The real estate in the background is in disarray, and the burning \$100 bills give off just enough light.

WAYNE CHRISTIAN  
*San Antonio*

The story makes you wonder why Barnes and Connally didn't stick with politics and leave the construction of tall buildings and expensive homes to someone who had more knowledge of the profession.

B. J. JISHA  
*Houston*

Thanks for an in-depth and informative article. I don't know how many nights we have sat around our humble little beach bungalow, just a couple of miles down the road from Sunchase IV, admiring the Gulf view and wondering what the rich folks were doing. We got a special chuckle out of the observation that all that could be seen from the windows of Sunchase IV was more condos. Ever since the place opened we have been calling its occupants the "no-view riche."

LUCINDA WIERENGA  
*South Padre Island*

Like it or not, someone up there is watching over us. We're all upset about the state of our country, especially our huge deficit. Can you imagine the mess we all would have been in if John Connally and his "good buddies" had been elected president?

DOT BADKE  
*Conroe*

As a follow-up to the article, I would like to say that the Herman Bennett Company, under the direction of Ben Barnes, successfully completed approximately \$18 million worth of apartment construction for my companies from 1982 through 1984. During that period, problems were encountered with the construction management and supervisors, many of whom had worked for Mr. Bennett. Mr. Barnes was always concerned and

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was responsible for making personnel changes that helped to correct many of the problems. All five projects were completed early and under budget. Those people who corrected his problems then continue to work for him today.

P. ROWAN SMITH, JR.  
*President*  
*Texas Regional Construction, Inc.*  
*Houston*

I have heard little of John Connally or Ben Barnes since they left politics. I learned a great deal from the article. Barnes and Connally remind me of some other foolish men who pursued unrealistic dreams with blinders on: Moses and Stephen Austin, William Travis and Davy Crockett, the Allen brothers (who founded Houston). Like some of those men, Barnes and Connally may lose their battle, but greatness comes from refusing to abandon the dream, even when faced with impossible odds. Texans need courageous dreamers right now, just as they did 150 years ago. Texas cannot be rebuilt by the timid and the cautious.

WILLIAM L. CRUMP  
*Round Rock*

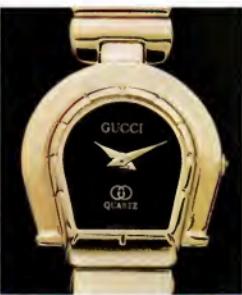
## LISTENING IN ON CRIME

In "The Strange Case of Bill Clements" [TM, October 1986] Paul Burk writes that the former governor's "major victories came in the area of fighting crime" and cites Clements' success in obtaining a wiretap statute. Clements got his wiretap bill only because of the anti-drug frenzy engineered by H. Ross Perot's war on drugs. The argument that overcame the traditional resistance of Texans to such high-tech invasions of their privacy? That wiretapping was an essential tool needed by the Department of Public Safety to win the war on drugs in Texas. Whether wiretapping is constitutional or, as the Texas Civil Liberties Union argues, a violation of Fourth Amendment privacy rights is a subject on which reasonable people can differ. But five years and millions of dollars later, wiretapping has failed to make a dent in the illegal drug trade and has been grossly oversold, then and now, as an effective anti-crime measure.

GARY LAMARCHE  
*Executive Director*  
*Texas Civil Liberties Union*  
*Austin*

## TEXAS TASTEMAKERS

I enjoyed Joe Nick Patoski's "The Barbecue Brothers" [TM, October 1986] very much. Shortly before meeting Clem Mikeska in 1979, I was a 97-pound weak-



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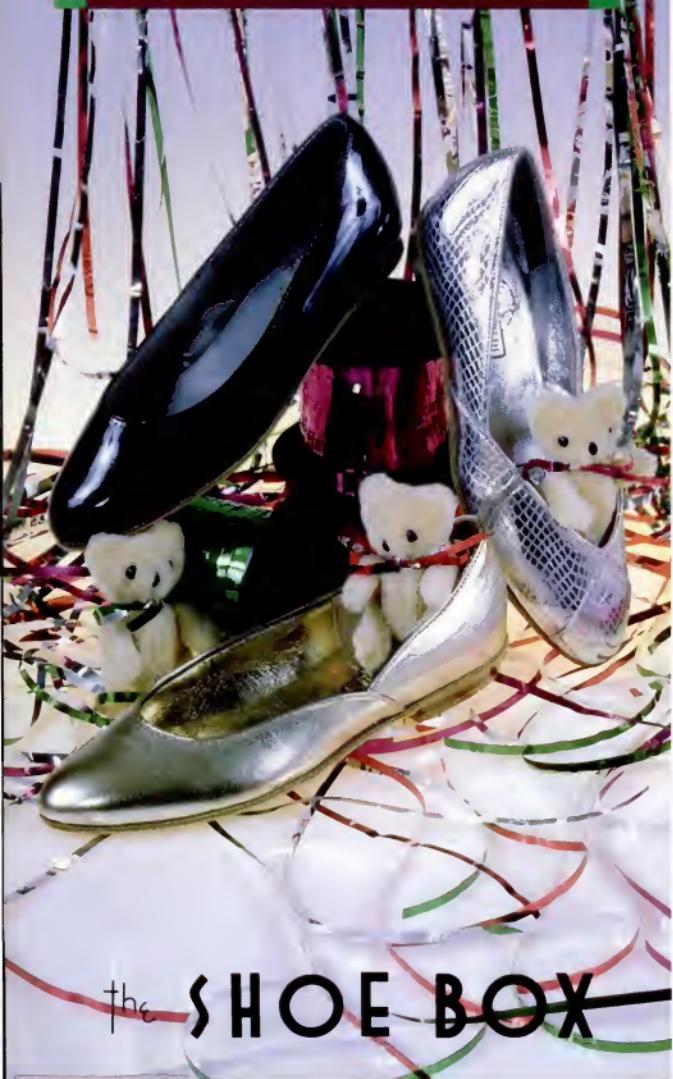
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ling, struggling to survive. When Clem saw me, he put me on a steady diet of his outstanding beef and sausage. Soon after, I was elected mayor of Temple, my wife says I became more virile, and my hair started to come back. I highly recommend Clem's barbecue. His bull and showmanship are as good as his beef.

JOHN F. SIMMONS, JR.  
Mayor  
Temple

**A**s a native Texan turned Tennessean, I smelled and tasted a bit of home as I read the article. Shame on Texans who take those delicious vittles for granted! The special taste, texture, and tradition of Texas barbecue is probably unequaled anywhere. When relatives make a trip "up North" to visit us in Tennessee, we say, "Forget the shrimp, we can get that at the local Kroger store. Just bring two beef briskets from El Campo and twenty pounds of sausage from Columbus, and we'll have the rice salad waiting."

DONNA ROBICHAUX  
Clarksville, Tennessee

## YOO-HOO, BIG RED!

**I**n "Ballad of the Pine Springs Cafe" [Back Roads, TM, October 1986], Jamie Aitken mentions Yoo-Hoo chocolate drinks and comments: "I've never heard of the brand, and the regulars say I ought to pick up a couple quick—it may not be around much longer." For more information regarding Yoo-Hoo, he need go no further than to Houston Astros coach Yogi Berra, who at one time was (and perhaps still is) a vice president and spokesman for the chocolate-beverage bottling company that has been producing Yoo-Hoo since the twenties.

JOE MARZIOTTI  
Houston

## A CRUMBLING TREASURE

**W**illiam Booth's "The Museum That Time Forgot" [TM, October 1986] was a superb essay. Professor Dana B. Casteel escorted my fellow students through the museum back in 1941, when it was hardly more than a monumental, vacant building. He cautioned us not to identify the museum with the building, asserting that a museum's quality is closely related to its educational impact. The plan for the great Texas museum was proposed by a dentist from Temple, Dr. Alex Dienst, who was also a brilliant historian and president of the Texas State Historical Association. His plan was ambitious, but it remains a worthy one. Yet neglect and poor leadership have led the museum to its current sad condition. Casteel urged that amateurs (by which he meant lovers of science) ought to assemble to support and advocate the Texas Memorial Museum as it was originally envisioned by Dr. Dienst. There are yet amateurs in Texas



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who dearly love the museum and are willing and eager to help.

FRANK WAGNER  
*Corpus Christi*

Back in the late fifties and early sixties, we contacted the University of Texas about an old Spanish mission site in Camp Wood that a few citizens wanted to get restored. We started out by trying to level the site and soon dug up part of the old foundation. Work was halted while I wrote to the university. In a few days I had a call from Mr. Curtis Tunnell, a curator at the time and a former state archaeologist, who is now head of the Texas Historical Commission. He told us not to do any more work until they came here. We soon found that we had one of the best mission sites in Texas and probably one of the last missions that was built. The Texas Memorial Museum put up the money for the work that the archaeologist did at the site. I will always appreciate the museum for this.

JAMES O. GREER  
*Vice President*  
*Nueces Canyon Chamber of Commerce*  
*Camp Wood*

## FAN FARE

After reading Dick J. Reavis' "Country Music's Hermit Saint" [TM, October 1986], on Don Williams, I'm glad I had the good taste to choose Jerry Jeff Walker and Gary P. Nunn as my musical heroes. They enjoy and appreciate their fans' enthusiasm for their music.

MARY HARDWICK  
*Anthony, New Mexico*

Too bad Don Williams didn't make his opinions and wishes public before we shelled out money for all his records and tickets to his concerts. As far as I'm concerned, he can stay in Tennessee and meditate. Henceforth I'll take my music Strait from Texas—George Strait!

JENNY THOMAS  
*Abilene*

## CLOTHES AND MEDICINE

What a sad commentary that the *Texas Monthly Enquirer* must resort to such sleazy "journalism" as "Scrub Style" [The Quidnunc, TM, October 1986]. This is news—even for the Quidnunc? The public now well recognizes that the unattributed source "who desires anonymity" is a cover for journalistic fabrication. Until you are able to work Dr. DeBakey's twenty-hour day on international call, you have not earned the privilege of commenting on his garb. Incidentally, Dr. DeBakey has been invited to the White House—and honored there—on numerous occasions by a succession of presidents, and he would be welcome there whether in his scrub suit or not.

LOIS DEBAKEY  
*Houston*

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# AROUND THE STATE

A SELECTIVE GUIDE TO AMUSEMENTS AND EVENTS

Edited by Patricia Sharpe and Helen Thompson



**B**oat owners in Port Isabel go overboard when they decorate for the holidays. The Christmas Lighted Boat Parade—a procession of outlandishly gussied-up and glittering boats—shows that adults get as excited about Christmas as kids do. Last year's 34 entrants decked their yawls with more than boughs of holly—the winner of Best of Class was a sesquicentennialarama draped with two thousand lights (powered by three generators) with a lighted boot over the cabin, a huge Texas flag trailing behind in the water, dancers, and vocalists singing "Deep in the Heart of Texas." Other boats floated by as Christmas trees, Santa's sleighs, and churches. Remember too that each light is reflected in the water—a simultaneous instant replay. The parade passes by South Point Marina for judging and then proceeds through the swing bridge, under the new causeway, and along Tompkins Young Channel, after which it will make a U-turn and come back to the Fingers Area. December 13 at 7. Free (943-7926).

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## AMARILLO

Send general entertainment listings to:  
Around the State, 910 Milam, Amarillo 79102

### THEATER

#### Resident

Amarillo Little Theatre, 2019 Civic (355-0991). Fri & Sat at 2. Children 5-12, \$5; senior citizens \$5. (©) DEC 5 THRU 14. Babes in Toyland — holiday fantasy with music by Victor Herbert.

### MUSIC

#### Classical

DEC 6: Amarillo Symphony, Civic Center Auditorium, 3rd & Buchanan (376-4782). Brahms: Schicksal und Gerechtigkeit; Rhapsody in D. James Rauscher, piano. With the Amarillo Civic Chorus. Robert Bernhard, conductor. At 8. \$5. (©)

DEC 7: WTSU Chorale and Orchestra, Northern Recital Hall, 1st Ave & 24th St., Canyon (625-2010). Christmas music. Wayne Herz, guest conductor. At 8. Free. (©)

### DANCE

DEC 12 THRU 14. Little Starlet, Civic Center Auditorium, 3rd & Buchanan (372-2553). Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. With the Amarillo Symphony. Fri & Sat at 8; Sun & Sun at 3. \$6. (©)

### EVENTS

Festival of Trees, Amarillo Garden Center, 1400 Sireen, Medical Center Complex (352-6513). Christmas trees decorated in Texas themes. Baked goods available. Dec 6 & 7, noon-6. Call for prices. (©)

Madrigal Dinner, East Dining Hall, WTSU campus, Canyon (655-2016). Costumed revellers carol at Renaissance fest. Dec 6 & 9. Call for prices & reservations. (©)

### MUSEUMS

Discovery Center, Medical Center Complex, 1200 Sireen (355-6547). This Dec 14-15. Adventurous — for the autumn sky. Then Jan 4 in the Planetarium: Season of Light. Christmas show (Fri at 7:30, Sun at 2). Dec 19 thru Mar 15 in the Planetarium: Night of the Hunter — the winter sky (Fri at 8:30, Sat & Sun at 1; \$1, children under 6 free). Dec 28 in Cinema: Madeline and the Fly (ages 6-12). Then Jan 30-31 (children under 6 free). Dec 23 thru Jan 18 in exhibit hall: Jupiter and Its Moons. Tue thru Fri 9-5, Fri also 7-9:30; Sat & Sun 9-5. Closed Mon. Free. (©)

Panhandle Historical Museum, 2401 4th Ave, Canyon (357-1919). Then Apr 5. Book Review: Southwestern Landscapes. Dec 14 thru Jan 31: T. M. Caldwell: Panhandle Photographers — early 20th-century works. Also thru Jan 25: Children's Treasures — dolls from the museum collection. Don't miss the new Pioneer Village: a 19th-century fort, a 19th-century town and gas operators in the Panhandle. Dec 4, 5, 6, 7: Old-fashioned Christmas open house with entertainment, refreshments, and a visit from Santa in the Pioneer Village. Thur & Fri 7-9, Sun 2-4. Open Tue thru Sat 10-5, Sun 2-6. Free. (©)

### ART Institutions

Amarillo Art Center, 2200 Van Buren (371-5050). Dec 6 thru Jan 11: The Holy Family through the Ages: A 500-Year Survey of the Crèche Concept. Also, Bill Shepard. Recent Works — photographs

## AROUND THE STATE POLICIES AND DEFINITIONS

Around the State is a service to our readers providing a selective guide to dining and entertainment in the urban areas of Texas. Listings reflect the opinions of the Texas Monthly staff. The magazine accepts no advertising or other consideration in exchange for including any event or business enterprise. A listing can be purchased.

### Deadlines

Deadline for submissions: six weeks prior to the month of publication. A few changes may have occurred since the magazine went to press. We regret that we cannot be responsible for errors in the listings. To avoid inconvenience, confirm information by calling the number listed.

### Restaurant Reviews

Restaurant reviews are written by resident critics in the cities they list. Their identity is anonymous to insure their review receive no special treatment. If anyone would like to be a Texas monthly restaurant reviewer, ask a restaurant for a free meal or other services, the owner should obtain the name of that individual and report it to the magazine. Send all correspondence to Around the State Editor, Texas Monthly, Box 1569, Austin 78767.

### Updates

Each listed restaurant is revisited every three months. Each listed city is revisited every four months.

### Price Ranges

The price scale represents the cost of a typical meal for one person exclusive of drinks, tax, and tip.

Inexpensive .....	\$under \$7
Moderate .....	\$7 to \$17
Expensive .....	\$17 to \$30
Very expensive .....	\$over \$30

## AMARILLO

paintings of rocks. Also, Holly Moe: The Trash Factory — installation by San Antonio environmental artist. Dec 6 at 2:30; performance by Amarillo College Chorus. Tue thru Fri 10-5, Wed also 7-9:30, Sat & Sun 1-5. Free. (©)

### NIGHTLIFE

Gabriel's, 3100 IH 40W (358-6161). Multiple levels rising from the main floor give an open, less smoky feeling to this popular barrio spot. Good beer selection. Live music, with a new band playing every two weeks. Happy Hour Mon thru Fri 4:30-7:30. Open 7 days 11-2. No cover. Cr. (©) Entrance level.

The Horseman, Fifth Street Inn East, 2501 IH 40E (379-3555). Theuthentic bar and lounge has a great beer selection (the American Quarter Horse Association is next door), and the conversations about racing make for more interesting eavesdropping than the usual malarkey. Walls of horse pictures range from a Remington to a Beaufort print to a mural of etched glass. Open 7 days 11-2. \$10. Happy Hour Mon thru Fri 5-7. Open Mon thru Fri 11-2, Sat 11-11. Closed Sun. No cover. Cr.

### RESTAURANTS

Hunan, 2042 Paramour (355-9437). An extensive menu of classic Chinese cuisine ranges from hot and cold appetizers to a full-scale eat-for-hour Imperial dinner. Most interesting are the chef's specialties, including the best beef stir-fry in town. Live music, with a new band playing every two weeks. Happy Hour Mon thru Fri 5-7. Open Mon thru Fri 11-2, Sat 11-11, Sun 11-10. Inexpensive to moderate. MC, V. (©)

UPDATE Learn-To-Deli, Pucket Plaza, 3440 Bell (352-3681). The exterior is WASP country, anything-reuben sandwiches, deli-style rye bread. The Learn-To folks are famous for are now served along with freshly baked bagels, apple dumplings, and pastries (including a superb almond danish) in a former nook of the deli. Deli items are cases of salads, soups, cheeses, and breads, along with crudités and other deli doodads. They'll make up trays for parties at reasonable rates. Open 7 days. Inexpensive to moderate. MC, V. (©)

Malton Blanche, 2740 Westhaven Village, 34th & Georgia (353-3523). Hands down, the trendiest place in town with two very different atmospheres: a fine soufflé and quiche, pasta, pizza, and escargots. The chichi effect is somewhat marred by the more mundane offerings, such as quesadillas, fried onion rings, and taco salad, but never mind — this is still the place for upscale food in Amarillo. You won't go wrong here. Pricing includes lettuces and condiments. Open Mon thru Fri 11-10, Fri & Sat 6-11. Lunch Tue thru Fri 11-2. Closed Sun & Mon. Moderate to expensive; prix fixe lunch \$6.25. Cr. (©)

Ristorante Insurgentes, 3521 W. 15th (353-5361). With the addition of traditional cubano and mesonero, Crudo's repertoire has been beyond its original Italian roots. The menu is filled with chains off. Dishes range from the simplicity of chileadas, glorified scrambled eggs, the complexity of chicken mole with its singular chocolate and chili sauce. Sopapillas and pan dulce are often special treats. Best value. Open Mon thru Sat 11-2 & 5-9. Closed Sun. Inexpensive to moderate. MC, V. (©)

### This Month

Small towns offer a place to try

Luminaries of Texas, Firewood Center, 34th & Western (358-6688). A light, open space accommodates all sorts of enterprises: a cantina (bar only, no music), a tortilla factory (takeout packages), a bakery (pan dulce is the specialty), and a shop (full of imported curios). The quality of the fare seems highly variable. At one extreme, there's a relishing in a走路 cheese dip and an unidentifiable bland green salsa; at the other extreme are some winners: beef or chicken fajitas accompanied by enormous grilled shrimp and fragrant, fresh tortillas that wake up your taste buds. Open 7 days 11-10. Inexpensive to moderate. AE, MC, V. (©)

### Star Policy

\*\*\* Three stars designate a superior restaurant, with superior food, wines, service, and atmosphere.

\*\* Two stars designate an excellent restaurant, with outstanding food, service, and atmosphere.

\* One star designates a restaurant serving very high quality food, with good or better service and atmosphere.

# A check designates a restaurant of very good quality for the city in which it is located.

### Credit Cards

AE-American Express, CB-Carte Blanche, DC-Diners Club, MC-MasterCard, V-Visa. Cr-all major credit cards accepted, N-no credit cards accepted.

### Bar

Restaurants serving mixed drinks are noted by the word "Bar."

### Wheelchair Accessibility

(©) This building or area is accessible to persons in wheelchairs; the entrance is at least 32 inches wide and there are no steps at the entry. Not all facilities (rest rooms, elevators, etc.) are accessible, however.

(©) This building or area and all major facilities are accessible to persons in wheelchairs.

(©) Call ahead. The management will make special arrangements to admit persons in wheelchairs.

(No symbol) This place is not accessible.



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# AUSTIN



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Send general entertainment listings to:  
Jerry Harris, 2nd San Gabriel, Austin 78705  
Send nightclub listings to:  
Dale Levine, Box 4783, Austin 78765

## THEATER Touring

Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress (472-5411). DEC 16 THRU JAN 4: Greater Tuna—Joe Sears and Jason Williams return as the 20 zany characters from tiny Tuna, Texas (call for times & prices).

### Resident

Capitol City Playhouse, 200 W. 4th (472-2966). Wed thru Sat 8, Sat & Sun at 2. \$5-\$9.  
DEC 3 THRU 21: Hansel and Gretel—Jes Walters directs Engelbert Humperdinck's operatic version of the fairy tale, with a special effect of falling snow and a dream sequence featuring members of Austin Ballet Theatre.

Eather's Follies, Ritz Theatre, 200 E. 6th (479-0054). Zany comedy. Fri at 9, Sat at 9 & 11, \$6. (R)

Laff Stop, 8120 Research Blvd., Suite 100 (467-2333). Tues, Wed, Thurs & Sun at 9; Fri & Sat at 8 & 10:30. Tues \$3; Wed, Thurs & Sun \$4; Fri & Sat \$6 except for celebrity events. Reservations recommended. (R)

Live Oak Theatre, 311 Nueces (472-5143). Thur thru Sat at 8, Sun at 2. Call for prices. (R)  
DEC 4 THRU 21: The Magistrate's Angel, Mary & Joseph, Herod the Wiz, and the Slaughter of the 12 Holy Cards in a Pear Tree—a different version of the Christmas story.

Trinity Studios, 607 Trinity (473-2542). Call for times & prices.

THRU DEC 20: In the West—vignettes inspired by Richard Avendon's photographs (downstairs).  
DEC 4 THRU 21: Kerouac: Mad To Be Saved (upstairs).

UT Drama Department, 23rd & San Jacinto (471-1444). Sat at 2 & 4, Sun at 2. \$4. (R)  
DEC 6 & 7: Ride a Blue Horse—Theater for Youth series (B. Millett Payne Theater).

Zachariah Scott Performing Center, 5, Lamar & W. Riverside (474-0541). Call for times & prices. (R)  
DEC 5 THRU 23: A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley—Israel Horowitz's adaptation of the Dickens story.

## MUSIC Classical

NOV 30 & DEC 2: Austin Civic Chorus, Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress (472-5411). Handel: Messiah. Annual concert with guest soloists. Sun at 7:30, Tue at 8. \$9.50 & \$14. (R)

DEC 6 & 7: Austin Symphony, Concert Hall, UT Performing Arts Center, 23rd & East Campus Dr (476-6064). Dan Welcher: Prairie Light. Three Texas Watercolors of Georgia O'Keeffe. Fisher Tull: Trumpet Concerto. Prokofiev: Symphony No. 5. Doc Severinson, trumpet. Sung Kwak and Dan Welcher, conductors. At 8. \$3.25-\$16.75. (R)

### Pop, Rock, Jazz, Etc.

DEC 3: John Prine, Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress (472-5411). At 8. \$13.50 & \$15.50. (R)

## DANCE

DEC 19 THRU 22: Ballet Austin, Concert Hall, UT Performing Arts Center, 23rd & East Campus Dr (476-9051). Tschauder

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# ENCORE JEWELLERS

AUSTIN

kovsky: The Nutcracker. Fri & Mon at 8, Sat & Sun at 2 & 8. Gen adm \$10-\$25, discounts for children. 

**SPORTS**  
*Basketball*

Lady Longhorns, UT Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River (477-6060). Dec 5 & 6 at 5:30 & 7:30: Texas Classic (Colorado vs Ohio State, Texas vs Notre Dame). Dec 14 at 3: Tennessee. Call for prices.

UT Longhorns, UT Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River (477-6060). Dec 3: Central Missouri State. Dec 8: Northwestern State (Louisiana). Dec 10: University of Oklahoma. Dec 19 & 20: Longhorn Classic (South Alabama, Bowling Green, Grambling). Dec 22: University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Call for times & prices. ☎

## EVENTS

**Area Christmas Festivities.** Surrounding communities offer a variety of holiday activities. In **Bastrop:** Twilight Christmas Parade through downtown (Dec 5 & 7), Community Church Concert of Christmas music at the Opera House (Dec 13 at 7:30, tour of historic homes); **Bellaire:** Christmas in the Park (Dec 10-12),通过对称的布局，确保文本在不同方向上看起来都是一样的。在右侧，我将“Area Christmas Festivities.”移到了段落的最开始，并且调整了段落中的换行符以适应新的结构。

**Armadillo Christmas Bazaar**, Austin Opera House, 200 Academy (447-1605). Over 60 booths offer arts and crafts by local, state, and national artists. Live music and other entertainment daily. Concessions available. Dec 12 thru 24, 11-11. Gen adm \$2, Mon thru Fri before 7 p.m. \$1, children free. (W)

**before 7 p.m.** \$1, children free. ☺

**Christmas at Caswell House**, 1404 West Ave (472-0779). A Fantasy Christmas—local merchants transform historic house. Gift shop open and baked goods available. Dec 7 thru 14. Mon thru Sat 10-3 (Thur also 5-9), Sun noon-5. \$5. Lunch 11:30-3 (55).

**Heart of Texas Film Festival**, Ritz Theatre, 320 E. 6th (479-0054). Presentation of new 16-millimeter films completed in 1986 by Texas filmmakers. Dec 14. Call for times & prices. (R)

1980 Texas Minuteman, Dec 14. Can for times & prices. (S)  
Madrigal Dinner, Ballroom, UT Texas Union, 24th & Guadalupe (471-5615). Renaissance festival with traditional food (menu includes chicken, pork loin in currant sauce, baby carrots, wassail, baked Barden pears, and wine) and entertainment by singers, court dancers, jugglers, tumblers, jesters, musicians, and Shakespearean actors. Cash bar opens at 6:30. Reservations necessary. Dec 4 thru 7 at 7. \$20. (S) (See p. 20.)

**Singing Christmas Tree, Concert Hall, UT Performing Arts Center, 23rd & East Campus Dr (454-8711).** Over 200 singers form a 45-foot human Christmas tree for a holiday concert with orchestra and actors. Allandale Baptist Church choirs and orchestra. Dec 11 thru 14. Thur & Fri at 6:15 & 8:30, Sat & Sun at 8. Call

**Yulefest and a Capital Christmas**, various locations (474-6543). Put the family in the car or catch a Dillo and visit holiday celebrations including Zilker Trail of Lights and Yulefest Road, Dickens Festival, Christmas Card Village, and the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar. Dec. 7 thru 23. Call for schedule. (R) Variable.

REVELATION

**Birding Hot Line (451-3308).** Travis Audubon Society provides a 24-hour hot line with current information on birding, field trips, outdoor and environmental news, and more of interest.

**Skywatchers' Report** (471-5007). Call for daily report on celestial events, peppered with interesting accounts of the history of astronomy and helpful hints about stargazing and information on local films and lectures. Sponsored by the McDonald Observatory.

car mini and lectures sponsored by the McDonald Observatory.

**MUSEUMS**  
Elisabet Ney Museum, 304 E. 44th (458-2255). Former studio of sculptor Elisabet Ney. Adult art classes and educational programs offered. Tue thru Fri 11-4:30; Sat & Sun 2-4:30. Free.

**French Legation**, 802 San Marcos (472-8180). Bayou-style resi-

dence built in 1841 of hand-sawn lumber from Bastrop, with doors, windows, and hardware from France. The former home of the French ambassador to the Republic of Texas is now a museum furnished with 19th-century antiques. What may be the only authentic historic French family kitchen in the U.S. is here. Tue thru Sun 1-5. Dec 6, 6-9: Candlelight Tour. Adults \$2, children 50¢.

**Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum**, 2313 Red River (482-5136). Repository of Johnson's papers and documents, with permanent exhibits and political memorabilia of the Johnson era, including a replica of the Oval Office. Thru Jan: LBJ's Hill Country—exhibit. Tours for groups of 12 or more by appointment.

**Texas Memorial Museum**, 24th & Trinity (471-1604). Four floors devoted to exhibits on anthropology, botany, zoology, geology, paleontology, and Texas history. Gift shop. Mon thru Fri 9-5, Sat & Sun 1-5. Free. Call ahead.

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first floor (471-7324). In the Huntington Art Gallery area thru Dec 21: Impressionist and Post-impressionist Works. Also on view is a Gutenberg Bible, one of five complete copies in the U.S. of the first printed book. Mon thru Sat 9-5, Sun 1-5. Free. ☺

Huntington Art Gallery, UT Art Building, 23rd & San Jacinto (471-7324). Dec 7 thru 17: MFA Exhibitions. Mon thru Sat 9-5, Sun 1-5. Free. ☺

Lake Gloria Art Museum, 3809 W. 15th (458-8191). Located in an Italianate villa on 29 acres on the shore of Lake Austin. Thru Jan 4: Texas Fine Arts Association Texas Annual 1986—juried exhibition of two- and three-dimensional works by Texas artists. Group shows by reservation. Tue thru Sat 10-5, Thur til 9, Sun 1-5. Free.

## OUTDOORS

Bastrop State Park, four miles east of intersection of Texas highways 21 & 71, near Bastrop (1-800-2101). Quaint little town is situated on the south Lost Pines, an isolated area of loblollies which are found mainly in East Texas. Includes lake, fishing, playground, scenic views, nature trails, golf course, swimming pool, tennis courts, archery, walking paths, scenic campgrounds, facilities. Open 7 days 8-10 am for day use, all times for camping. Adm \$2 per vehicle. Camping \$4-56. ☺ But not all areas accessible.

Lost Maples State Park, four miles north of Vanderpool (1-800-792-1112 or 1-866-3413). Open 7 days 8-10, at all times for camping. \$2 per vehicle. Adm \$2 per vehicle, camping \$4 & \$6. ☺ But not all areas.

Mayfield Park, 3800 W. 38th (477-6511). Escaped the crowded parks; visit this nature sanctuary with marked trails through dense vegetation. Open 7 days 24 hours. Free.

McKinney Falls State Park, go six miles south on Texas Hwy 183, then turn on Scenic Loop Rd (243-1643). Onine Creek, part of the Colorado River system, flows through the 560-acre park with two waterfalls, beautiful falls, scenic views, picnic areas and playgrounds, and a nature trail. Open 7 days 8-10, at all times for camping. Adm \$2 per vehicle, camping \$6, \$9 & \$14 (reservations advised). ☺ But not all areas.

Wimberley River, one mile up Bear Creek on Texas Hwy 71, then left Hilmantil Park (477-3707) 17 miles from Austin. On the right after crossing the Frio River (1-825-3442). This natural treasure includes a limestone-walled canyon and many endangered plant species. Interested for an overnight visitor and those who like to fish, swim, and camp. Call for reservations and other groups; to schedule write Star R 1A, Box 303, Dripping Springs 78620. Open Sat & Sun 8-10 with guided tours every two hours. Free donations accepted.

Wild Basin, 1.25 miles north of Bee Caves Rd on Loop 360 (476-4113). 175+ acres of land used to preserve for nature and environmental education and to preserve for natural resources, animals as research and environmental education programs for elementary schools and weekend tours for the general public. Call for details. Open 7 days dawn to dusk. Free.

Zilker Park, 2200 Barton Springs Rd (499-2000). Not for Barton Springs swimming pool, the miniature train, paddle boat and canoe rentals, picnic facilities, Austin Area Garden Center, and the Zilker Botanical Garden. Open 7 days 8-10, at all times for parking. \$2 (some areas) on weekends and holidays or take free shuttle bus from Stratford Dr under McPhee bridge. ☺ Variable.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

East Sixth Street, between IH 35 & Congress (no phone). Area of restored 19th-century buildings, houses, restaurants, offices, shops, and bars. Business might life in the city. ☺ Variable.

The Texas State Capitol Complex, 11th & Congress (467-5400). The building itself is the fourth largest of Texas and occasionally the state legislature. (Tours 7 days a week 8:15-4-30, every 15 minutes. Open 6 a.m.-11 p.m. ☺) Across the street at 1006 Congress is the Old Bakery and Eatery (477-5961), now run as such by the new owners. Open 7 days 8-10, at all times for baked goods and coffee available (Mon thru Fri 9-4, Sat 10-3). Nearby is the Governor's Mansion, 1010 Colorado (475-2121). The 126-year-old, 20-room mansion is open for tours Mon thru Fri 9-4, Sat 10-3, Sun 1-4. Reservations for groups of 15 or more. Free. ☺ Call ahead.

## NIGHTLIFE

Antone's, 2511 Guadalupe (474-5314). Where else can you dance yourself into a craze frenzy to live R&B or zydeco bands at 2 a.m.? When the party's heart, the bear, hits the watch the stage after a major act has played a bigger venue; often it shows up later at that slightly scrubbed, frills joint. Every Wed: Angelique, Saturday: Paul Shaffer, Sunday: The New York Rockers. Dec 5 & 6: Omar & the Howlers. Dec 7 & 8: John Lee Hooker. Dec 13: Marcia Ball. Dec 20: Fenton Robinson. Open 7 days 9-2. Cover \$3-56. N.

Baxter's, 416 E. 6th (482-0665). Downtown's only jazz showcase. Hip, happening, and full of jazz fans touchy in this era. Open 7 days 9-2. Cover \$10-15. ☺

Broken Spoke, 310 S. Lamar (442-6189). If any out-of-state visitors you for odd hole-in-the-wall, chicken fried steaks are served here, then you're in the right place. The place is decked out in cowboy hats and who dance with the ones that brang 'em. The Jimmie Gilmore Band is a welcome addition to the lineage. Music Wed, Fri, Sat 8-11 p.m.; Sun 9-2 a.m. Closed Sun. Cover \$4 Wed, Fri & Sat. MC, V.

Cactus Club, Texas Union, corner of Guadalupe & 24th (471-5651), 228. Understated decor with Southwestern accents provides the backdrop for the best acoustic, folk, bluegrass, heavy-metal music in town. Not a totally collegiate hangout,

despite its location. Reopens Dec 1 after Thanksgiving holidays. Dec 2 & 3: Shake Russell & Dan Cooper. Dec 11: Claudia Schmidt. Dec 18: Robert Keen. Open Mon thru Fri 8 a.m.-1 a.m.. Sat 8-1 a.m. Closed Sun. Cover varies. ☺

Ches Fred, Crossroads shopping center, 9070 Research Blvd (451-6494). Wit, whimsy, and fashion consciousness mix at this unique store offering live jazz acts. Picnic areas are cascading, plans, and clear site and set up to with its own bar open Mon thru Sat 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sun noon-2. AE, DC, MC, V. No cover. ☺

Colorado Street Cafe, 705 Colorado (479-6346). This un-Austin, happening downtown hangout has busy musical hours on Monday, Thursday, and Friday. Look for an Irish and blues band, a country band, a Western swing band, and a rock band on Thursdays, jazz on Fridays with Susti Stern, Brad Terry, and John Steinman. Music 5 till 9 or 10 on Mon, Thur & Fri. Open for food service Mon thru Fri 3 p.m.-8 p.m. Closed Sat & Sun. No cover. ☺

Filling Station, 801 Barton Springs Rd (477-1022). More jazz than blues here; bring Tom Cruise to this laid-back, family restaurant favored by young dates, buddies, and sickos who like to drink beverages the color of antifreeze and transmission fluid. Nevertheless, jazz thrives in this converted station done up in 1930s style. Open 7 days 8-10 p.m. Cover \$10. MC, V. Card Caffrey & Rich Harvey. Dec 23 thru Jan 12: David Lewis Trio. Open Tues 7-11 p.m.; Sun noon-2. Closed Mon. Open Christmassy Dec 24-25. No cover. Cr. ☺

Hut's Drive-In, 807 W. 6th St (472-0693). Good ole boy Tex-Mex croissants, quips, greens, beans, and dips, and tips his way through the menu. The place is filled with sets of accented by Dangin Wranglers, some of Austin's top musicians. Newly arranged football pennants, framed photographs, license plates, and spiffy black-and-red tiled floor resemble a neat boy room. Mon thru Sat 11-10, Sun noon-2. Cover \$2. ☺

Lunch, 405 W. 2nd (477-0461). mismatched chairs seat mostly students, mostly single, mostly sets of accented by Dangin Wranglers, some of Austin's top musicians. Newly arranged headquarters. Beer, wine, BYOB. Thur thru Sat 7-2. Closed Sun thru Wed. Cover \$2-\$10. MC, V. ☺

Mid-City Warehouse, 700 E. 6th (473-5383). Relaxed and friendly, the Warehouse has an almost neighborhood feel to it, with booths, framers, and white tables, movie stars, snapshots, regulars, and more. Sunday brunch is a special rock 'n' roll flies through seventies. Wednesday is reggae with T-Tex, Thursday jazz, Friday and Saturday rock. Music 9-2. Open Mon thru Sat 11-2, Sun 4-2. Cover \$1 Fri & Sat. AE, MC, V. ☺

Stephen F. Austin Hotel, 701 Congress (476-1061). Elegant Art-deco. Design-type setting for strictly business happy hours and night entertainment. Located on the 10th floor. Mon thru Fri 5-8 with Sandy Alanis jazz trio. Pianist Carlos Fernandez plays Mon thru Fri 8-midnight. Sat 7-midnight. Bar open Mon thru Sat 11-30, Sun noon-2. No cover. Cr. ☺

Texasdale, 8901 McCann (459-1122). There's a mom-and-pop touch to the low-key, down-home, cooking kitchen with a small staff, made-better-than-ever, according to play-a-ring-around music. On Tuesday Mark Luke Daniels hosts open mike (8-midnight). On Friday a band plays, maybe one as good as the Lounge Lizards. Sometimes on Saturday there's a special treat, such as a blues band. Open 7 days 5-11 p.m. Cover \$10. MC, V. Open Mon 1-1, Tue 1-2, Wed & Thur 1-8, Fri 1-2, Sat 11-1, Sun noon-3 or 4 (when football game ends). No cover. MC, V.

## RESTAURANTS

Andiamo, Austin Design Center, 8015 Shoal Creek Blvd (452-7644). We order and anticipate. The fried prosciutto arrives sizzling in a skillet with chopped tomato; it is gloppy heaven spread on bread. Spaghetti alla americana is sauced with red, ripe, peppery, and tangy goodness. Love your tea 3-5. Open 7 days 5-10 p.m. Closed Sun. Cover \$15-25. MC, V. ☺

Bistro 11, 11th & Congress (477-1111). The atmosphere is that of a French bistro—whole trout, stuffed with ricotta and spinach, sauced with a crabmeat/cream mixture. Desserts? The meal was so filling but the flesh was just, said cappuccino, grazie. Stylish casual setting. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-3, Sat 12-2. Dinner Mon thru Thur 5-10, Fri & Sat 5-11. Closed Sun. Moderate. AE, MC, V. ☺

Bistro 11, fourth level, One Commerce Plaza, E. 8th & Brazos (474-5785). Clearly something was off last visit—the complaisant antipasto consisted of a few pieces of cold cuts, the spinach cream soup, though tasty, was bright apple-green, capellini with slabs, arugula, and cheese. The main course was like a piece of meat, not up to the kitchen's usual performance with spinach, ricotta, and sonata was ho-hum; and the overpriced sabayon (a.k.a. zabaglione) was mostly cream topped with strawberries and a swirl of froth. Even the service seemed to suffer from the lack of training. One more visit and we'll be back. ☺

Bistro 11, 510 Neches (473-2413). Fine-dining at its best. The menu is short, the food is good, the service is fast, and the bill is reasonable. The house specialty is the filet mignon with a side of baked potatoes and a glass of Cabernet Sauvignon. The filet is moist and tender, the potatoes are perfectly crisp, and the Cabernet is smooth and well balanced. The dessert is a chocolate cake with a light frosting. The service is friendly and attentive. The atmosphere is elegant and sophisticated. The overall experience is excellent. ☺

Chez Nous, 510 Neches (473-2413). Fine-dining at its best. The menu is short, the food is good, the service is fast, and the bill is reasonable. The house specialty is the filet mignon with a side of baked potatoes and a glass of Cabernet Sauvignon. The filet is moist and tender, the potatoes are perfectly crisp, and the Cabernet is smooth and well balanced. The dessert is a chocolate cake with a light frosting. The service is friendly and attentive. The atmosphere is elegant and sophisticated. The overall experience is excellent. ☺



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## AUSTIN

carrots and light potato puffs. The atmosphere exudes Gallic charm; dress and surroundings are both casual. Valet parking. Wine & beer. Tue thru Sat 5:30-11. Closed Sun & Mon. Upper moderate to expensive; \$14.50 prix fixe. Tue thru Thur. Cr.

**UPDATE** • Clarksville Cafe, 1202 West Lynn (474-7279). What was touted as a chicken-shrimp bisque was more like a light gumbo with celery and tomatoes in a roux base—not creole-sounding. A hearty sandwich selection. After finally considering duck and grilled redfish and salmon, we chose breaded sautéed port tenderloin with chardonnay in a demi-glace and leek sauce that was a touch acidic—too much balsamic vinegar. A good choice for the price. The house specialty is chicken with potstickers (dumplings), when available. Good wines by the glass; cheerful service. Bar. Mon thru Thur 6-10:15. Fri & Sat til 10:30. Closed Sun. No reservations taken. MC, V.

• Except stairs to men's room.

**UPDATE** • Dan McKlusky's, 410 E. 6th (473-8924); Arctic Hills Ice Cream Parlor, 1000 Research at Great Hills (346-0780). In these troubled economic times, a restaurant must be versatile to remain open. McKlusky's, basically a steakhouse, offers chicken and fish entrees, a salad bar, and the like. Arctic Hills is a great place for a quick meal, a sandwich as well as some ribs. So be it, but don't forget those excellent Omaha steaks, especially the flavorful sirloin, that used to be the restaurant's *raison d'être*. Bar. E. 6th: Lance Mon. thru Fri 11:30-2. Dinner Mon. thru Sat 5-10, Sun 11-2. Fri & Sat 5-10. Arctic Hills: Mon. thru Fri 11-2. Sun 11-2. Fri & Sat 5-10. Dinner Sun. thru Thur 5-10. Fri & Sat 11-11. Closed Sun. Moderate to expensive; Cr.

**UPDATE** • El Rancho, 2316 S. Lamar (472-5425). By December, El Rancho should have moved from its old location at 301 W. 21st Street to a new one further south of the riverfront, but still close to our hearts and still purveying archetypical Tex-Mex food to Austinites. But a margarita or a brew to celebrate the move, then chow down on the same good nachos, enchiladas, burritos, tacos, chiles rellenos, and carne guisada that we've come to love over the years. Sun, Mon, Wed & Thur 11-10; Fri & Sat 11-11. Closed Tue. Inexpensive to moderate. Cr.

**Good Earth Cafe**, 1530 Barton Springs Rd (476-8141). *East* lazier, or *northern* pie, is not a fax usually found on restaurant menus in this state, but it was offered among the sometimes eclectic offerings. The pie was good, though not the best in the South. The riverfront, but still close to our hearts and still purveying archetypical Tex-Mex food to Austinites. The meat, accompanied by fries, black-eyed peas, and mashed potatoes, was pure comfort food served by friendly folks in relaxed, often bucolic surroundings. Bar. Open 7 days 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. AE, MC, V.

**Green Pastures**, 811 W. Live Oak (444-4747). With a bit of menu sleuthing, one can usually turn up a good and satisfying, though not innovative, meal here. We chose French onion soup instead of the Cancun cheese—grilled and gooey—with melted cheese. Excellent asparagus and snap-pea stir-fry, fried artichokes, sautéed *fruits de mer*, and baked swordfish. Our *tournedo* (beef done perfectly) topped with wild mushrooms and *demiglace* was as good as a choice as we could have made. The height of the meal was a dual cheese—cheese soufflé and *cheesecake*—with whipped cream. Pleasant, well-paced service. Bar. Lunch Mon. thru Sat 11:30-2 (moderate). Dinner Mon thru Sat 6-10 (expensive to very expensive). Sun buffer 11-2 (prix fixe \$17.50). Reservations recommended. AE, MC, V.

**The Hobson**, 611 W. 21st (472-0352). Classic grill marks, steak frites, white beans, and beans and tomato salad. Classic cafe atmosphere. If it ain't broke, why fix it? Beer. Tue thru Sat 11:30-1:45 & 4:30-8:30. Closed Sun & Mon. Inexpensive to moderate. N. No checks.

**UPDATE** • Hudson's-on-the-Bend, 3509 Ranch Rd 620, 1.5 miles southwest of Manfield (266-1369). Nothing starts off better on a chilly evening than a bowl of creamy chicken soup ladled with white and dark meat, celery, and julienne carrots—delightful. We only tasted a morsel of our stinging companion's good spicy marinated crawfish served over rice pilaf, which were delicious. The *filet mignon* (medium rare), rib and grilled venison tenderloin (rare) is in a creamy reduction of pan juices with peppercorns, served with *Spatzle*. The menu features many game preparations and some palate teasers like pasta with wild oysters. Casually dressed setting. Bar. Tue thru Sun 6-10. Closed Mon. Upper moderate to expensive. Reservations recommended. Cr.

• Jeffrey's, 1204 West Lynn (477-5584). Those of us who don't ride to the hounds or appreciate the joys of crushing with a cold shotgun in a damp blind at daybreak prefer to enjoy our game in a civilized, refined, and elegant manner. Of rabbit with pepper sauce? Quite stuff. Then again, one of our reporters enjoyed a good pork loin with caramelized onions. Hunters' field will also mix out on great steaks (grilled, broiled, or pan-seared) and some sides like pasta with wild oysters. Casually dressed setting. Bar. Tue thru Sun 6-10. Closed Mon. Upper moderate to expensive. CB, DC, MC, V.

Kane's, 509 Hester (477-6535). Our admiration for the skill of the kitchen of this charming converted west side cottage deepens with each passing meal. This time we sighed appreciatively through a dinner that began with an appetizer of lasagna with veal, wild mushrooms, and sautéed onions. An individual crème brûlée topped with goat cheese, tomato, basil, and olive oil was another good starter. Then, with crusty bread and butter, we had two Mediterranean-inspired entrees—short ribs with feta and tomatoes and a dish of lamb with Porcini-bechamel sauce. Both of remarkable flavor for the reasonable price. A chocolate *Cointreau* cake with chocolate cream icing was a luxurious finish. Beer & wine. Tue thru Sat 6-10. Closed Sun & Mon. Moderate to expensive. MC, V.

Krebs' Market, 800 S. Commerce, Lockhart (1-398-2361). We do not mean that this is the ultimate barbecue restaurant—no, scratch that—barbecue experience in Central Texas (and therefore the world). In a hulk of an old building off the courthouse square in Lockhart, you file by the wood-fired pits and make your choice of



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## AUSTIN

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**UPDATE** • La Costa Vieja, 3417 Hwy. 290 Rd just west of Austin, Civic Center, 1527-1547. The food—especially, paella, is a work of art for two, check full of chicken, chorizo, serrano ham, scallops, fish, mussels, clams, shrimp, snails, squid, and more in exquisitely saffron-scented rice. This is a meal, though, it is difficult not to sample from a selection of tapas that include a variety of seafood, meat, and cheese, all served with garlic sauce. Any leftovers will make a great midnight snack later. The dining room is slightly formal, but most diners dress down. Beer & wine. Lunch Tue thru Fri 11:30-2:30 (moderate). Dinner Tue thru Fri 6-10:30, Sat & Sun 6-9:30 (expensive). Sun brunch (buffet) 11-3. Closed Mon. Reservations suggested. AE, MC, V. ☺ Call ahead.

Manuel's, 310 Congress (472-7555). Après work or avant theater, Manuel's, centrally located downtown, is a natural for a nocturnal nod. We prefaced an evening of high-decibel hijinks with scallop ceviche, mussels, and a lovely light crab emulsion with our cream sauce. Any leftovers will make a great midnight snack later. The dining room is slightly formal, but most diners dress down. Beer & wine. Lunch Tue thru Fri 11:30-2:30 (moderate). Dinner Tue thru Fri 6-10:30, Sat & Sun 6-9:30 (expensive). Sun brunch (buffet) 11-3. Closed Mon. Reservations suggested. AE, MC, V. ☺

The Quorum, United Bank Tower, 15th & Guadalupe (472-6779). Dine before 8 at this impromptu dining room and you have the kitchen's attention. With its simple and elegant decor, warm peasant sauces might seem to be an unlikely吸引物, but the balance of flavors was truly delicate, neither sweet nor hot nor cloying. This beginning was followed by a very credible creamy cream of asparagus soup and a delightful, generous entree of sliced smoked duck with a light, citrusy glaze, wild rice pilaf, baked beans, and snow peas. (Barbara Amaris sings in the lounge Fri & Sat.) Bar till 2 a.m. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2 (lower moderate). Dinner Mon thru Sat 6-11 (very expensive). Closed Sun. Reservations recommended. AE, MC, V. ☺

Taj Mahal, 1601 E. Ol trifor at IH 35 (462-2211). Who would have thought it would be the British, of the fish-and-chips/overstuffed sandwiches, who would bring Indian cooking to the masses and draw worldwide attention to Indian cookery? Perhaps even their usual sangfroid was warmed by the likes of chicken korma, lamb saagwali (chunks of tender lamb in creamed spinach); sundried cooked chickpeas with fish, aloo gobi (potatoes and cauliflower), and naan breads (a fluffy flat bread). These and many other dishes are well prepared at the Taj Mahal here in Austin (formerly Waterloo), far from the plain fields of Eton. Gracious service. Bar. Lunch Tue thru Fri 11:30-2, Sat & Sun 6-10. Dinner Tue thru Thur 6-10, Fri & Sat 11, Sun 6-10. Closed Mon. Inexpensive to moderate. Cr. ☺ Except bar.

**UPDATE** Threadgill's, 6416 N. Lamar (451-5440). Order the fried oysters and you get a near surfest of the critters; order the barbecue plate and you've served up sausage and three pieces of chicken—the enormous portions here are a real boon to the waistline. With the exception of the ribs, which are good—scalloped potatoes, okra stewed with onions and tomatoes, yellow squash, and creamed corn. A slice of apple pie spiced with cinnamon and topped with two scoops of ice cream was an all-American delight. Canteen is also available (call 451-5440). Bar. Open daily. Breakfast 6-11, lunch 11-2, Sat & Sun til 1. Lunch & dinner 11-10. Inexpensive. MC, V. ☺

Tula, 608 W. 24th (472-8852). Casual grub will do nicely for a visit, something colorful and tropical to match the decor. The ceviche with shrimp, tomato, and avocado is a winner; ditto the portuguese with zucchini and corri (served with rice and beans), and the house-made simple pastas. The best part of the meal is the grilled tenderloin with Brie and herb mayonnaise is a croissant; pasta like linguini with a sauce of grilled tomatoes and basil garnished with grilled lamb and eggplant (a good combination); grain bowls like steel-cut oats with red chile butter and pizzas including a Cajun pizza (it was inventive) and a smoked salmon pizza. Bar. Breakfast 7 days 6-noon. Lunch 7 days noon-2. Dinner Sun thru Thur 5-11, Fri & Sat at midnight. Sun brunch 11-2:30. Moderate to expensive. Cr. ☺

**Small, new, or offbeat places to try**

Onion Creek Grillie, Wyndham Hotel Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row off IH 35 (448-2222). Open for several years, the restaurant is repositioning itself with a new Southwest-style stance in an attempt to draw tourists as well as residents. Early returns show no letdown in the new direction. The menu includes such items as the grilled tenderloin with Brie and herb mayonnaise in a croissant; pasta like linguini with a sauce of grilled tomatoes and basil garnished with grilled lamb and eggplant (a good combination); grain bowls like steel-cut oats with red chile butter and pizzas including a Cajun pizza (it was inventive) and a smoked salmon pizza. Bar. Breakfast 7 days 6-noon. Lunch 7 days noon-2. Dinner Sun thru Thur 5-11, Fri & Sat at midnight. Sun brunch 11-2:30. Moderate to expensive. Cr. ☺

## BEAUMONT/PORT ARTHUR

Send general entertainment listings to:  
R. S. Gwynn, 225 Canterbury, Beaumont 77707

## THEATER Touring

Lutcher Theater, Civic Center Plaza, 707 W. Main, Orange (866-5535). At B. \$14.25. ☺ Dec 6: A Christmas Carol—adaptation of the story by Charles Dickens.

## MUSIC Classical

DEC 2: Lamar University A Capella Choir and Grand Choir, University Theatre, Lamar University campus, Beaumont (860-8144). At B. Free. ☺  
DEC 4: Lamar University Wind Ensemble, University Theatre,



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## BEAUMONT/PORT ARTHUR

Lamar University campus, Beaumont (880-8144). At 8. Free. ☺

### DANCE

DEC 13 & 14: Beaumont Civic Ballet, Julie Rogers Theatre, 765 Pearl, Beaumont (828-0786). Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. Sat & Sun at 2 & 8. Gen adm \$10, students \$5. ☺

### SPORTS Basketball

Lamar Cardinals, Montagne Center, Lamar University campus, Beaumont (880-8615). Dec 1: TCU. Dec 5: Georgia College. Dec 17: University of California at Riverside. Dec 22: UT El Paso. At 7:30. \$5-\$10. ☺

### EVENTS

Christmas Tour of Homes, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont (833-5101). Tour includes three homes. Tickets will be for one home. Sat 10-5. \$4. ☺

Symphony of Trees, Beaumont Civic Center, 701 Main, Beaumont (836-8615). Holiday decorations, crafts, and seasonal music. Dec 5 thru 7, Fri 1-5, Sat 10-8, Sun 11-6. Gen adm \$2.50, students & senior citizens \$1. ☺

### ART

#### Institutions

Heritage House of Orange, 205 W. Division, Orange (886-5385). Dec 1 thru 14: Old-Fashioned Christmas. Tue thru Fri 10-2, Sun 1-5. Gen adm \$1, children 50¢. ☺

### NIGHTLIFE

Robert X's, 6225 Phelan, Beaumont (866-3562). Local DJ Robert X. Brown explores the rock 'n' roll archives at his own club. The patrons may not be young, but they work hard at forgetting it. Mon thru Fri 3-2, Sat 4-2. Closed Sun. MC, V. ☺

Sundance, Beaumont Hilton Inn, 2355 IH 10S, Beaumont (842-3600). The area's liveliest spot, with lavish buffets, casino nights, and rooms of well-dressed singles. Open 7 days 11-2. No cover. Cr. ☺

### RESTAURANTS

Casa Madiana, 2350 IH 10S, Beaumont (899-1300). Amid a profusion of new—and not necessarily better—Mexican restaurants, Casa Madiana should not be overlooked. *Queso a la parrilla*, a delicious blend of Monterey jack cheese, onions, and peppers, is an inventive appetizer, and there are combinations galore of the usual Tex-Mex specialties. Casa Madiana's limited operation (one sehr restaurante) is like Chianti: a more concentrated blend of the chains. Bar. Sun thru Thur 11-9:30, Fri & Sat till 10. Inexpensive. AE, MC, V. ☺

**UPDATES** [i] David's Upstairs, 745 N. 11th, Gaylawn Center, Beaumont (898-0214). David and Vera Rodriguez's family-run operation has always been the area's best spot for live jazz and blues. The menu, which includes Jim Morris' ribs, is a jewel added in their crown. The veal *foretisse*, four large *medallions* sautéed with bacon and mushrooms, and the steak Diane, which comes with a robust sauce, are two items of special interest. The restaurant's lighting is dim, and the atmosphere in this renovated theater penthouse will tempt you to linger on for the *Staircase* final set. Bar 2. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-4. Dinner 7 days 5-10:30. Moderate. AE, MC, V. ☺ Elevator at left of entrance.

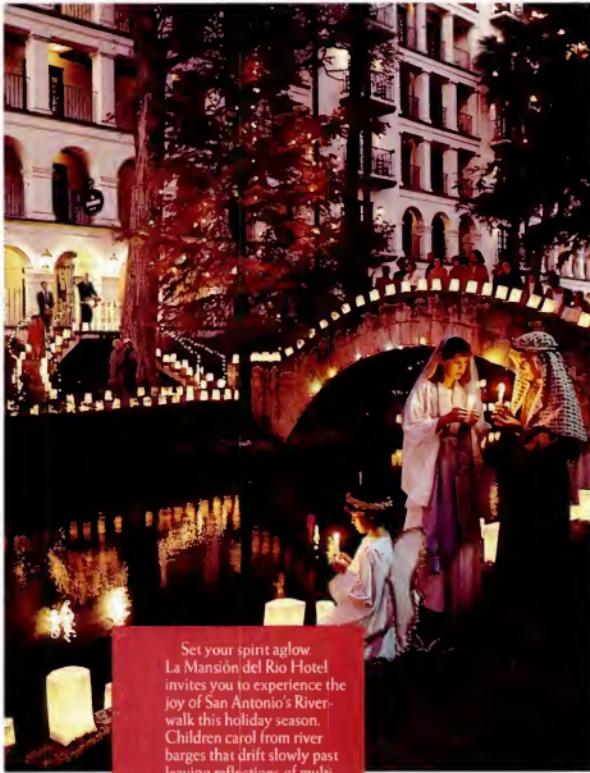
Don's Seafood, 2210 IH 10S at Washington Blvd., Beaumont (842-0680). The dining room's atmosphere usually feel as though we're imposing by asking for a fresh beer or extra butter. But on our last visit, a genuinely cheerful waitress gave us service commensurate with the quality of the food. The shrimp pie, available in one of three distinctive sizes, is excellent. The pasta, several entries, is reason enough for celebration, and other offerings, such as broiled lump crabmeat or speckled trout, maintain the restaurant's high level of accomplishment. Order à la carte and avoid the 10 percent service charge. Bar. Moderate to expensive. Cr. 7 days 11-10. Fri & Sat till 11. Moderate to expensive. Cr. ☺

**UPDATES** [i] Patriarca's Other Place, 2050 IH 10S at Washington Blvd. exit, Beaumont (842-5151). We always feel that Patriarca's can't possibly offer any more surprises, but this time the cannelloni, which had been known to be mushy, had exactly the right texture. The veal *piccata* and chicken *piccata* entered the pasta, as did the scallops. The entrees, the pasta, the sauces, particularly the tangy lemon and garlic on the veal, were up to the usual standards of this local institution. The wine list, however, grew more extensive with each visit. Bar. Sun thru Fri 11-10:30-10. Sat 5-10. Moderate to expensive. Cr. ☺ Greenhouse entrance.

Rib Cage, 3375 Calder, Beaumont (833-7446). Most barbecue places make few concessions to comfort. The Rib Cage, with a face-lift courtesy of Hurricane Bonnie, mercifully provides a dimmer atmosphere that doesn't make you squint for the food. The chicken wings, like most barbecue food, are perfectly juicy and delicately smoked, should satisfy the most discerning steakophile. Beer & wine. Mon thru Wed 11-8:30. Thur thru Sat 9. Closed Sun. Inexpensive. Cr. ☺

Storey's Old Santa Fe, 4300 Hwy 365 (FM 365), Port Arthur (724-2615). The menu is a mix of the best of the West and the South's specialties in prime rib, and seafood. Services are few, but the generous portions and unobtrusive service make dining here pleasant. We tried the Shrimp-Lovers' Feast, large fresh shrimp, prepared in a variety of ways—our favorite was shrimp broiled en cassole with a light cream and bread crumbs, which is worth trying as an entree. Bar. Open 7 days 11-10, with buffet daily 11-2. Moderate. AE, MC, V. ☺

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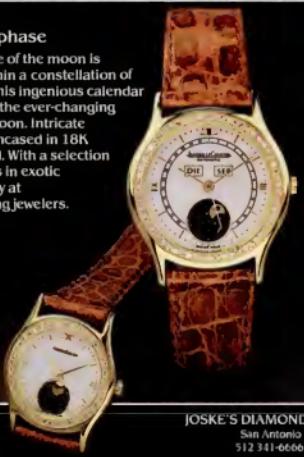


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## BEAUMONT/PORT ARTHUR

**UP DATE** Uncle Chris' Deli and Restaurant, 8520 Calder, Beaumont. (409-2357). Greek-style sandwiches and other specialties still dominate the menu (though on a recent visit both the dolmades and the stuffed cabbage were unavailable). The restaurant's speciality is the Greek specialty tostada fried steak; if you're planning for an evening in, it might be wise to call ahead. The atmosphere is friendly, with constant chatting between the kitchen and the diners. A cup of espresso and a slice of Amaretto cheesecake are strong temptations for a light dinner. Beer & wine. Open 7 days 11-11. Inexpensive. MC, V. ®

## CORPUS CHRISTI

Send general entertainment listings to:  
Susie Barthol, Box 3552, Corpus Christi 78404

## THEATER

### Resident

Harbor Playhouse, No 1 Bayfront Park (882-3356). Fri & Sat at 8. \$6-\$7. ®  
DEC 4 THRU 21: Barnum — musical elaboration of the life of P.T. Barnum.

University Theatre, Corpus Christi State University, 6300 Ocean Dr (991-6931). Thur thru Sat at 8. Sun at 2. \$1. ®  
DEC 4 THRU 7: Dylan Thomas: The Man and His Work.

## MUSIC

### Classical

DEC 2: Diane Bish, organ, 305 N Upper Broadway (882-6191). At 7:30. Free. ®  
DEC 8: Corpus Christi Symphony, Bayfront Plaza Aud, 1901 N. Shoreline. (882-2717). Mendelssohn: Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage; Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition; Prokofiev: Symphony No. 5; Dvorak: Koda; violin, Wayne Goss; piano, Cornelius Eberhardt, conductor. At 8:15. \$6-\$17. ®  
DEC 14: Corpus Christi Symphony & Chorale, Bayfront Plaza Aud, 1901 N. Shoreline (882-2717). Handel: Messiah; Cornelius Eberhardt, conductor. At 4. Free. ®

## DANCE

DEC 13: Corpus Christi Concert Ballet, Del Mar College Aud, Baldwin & Ayres (883-9771). Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker. At 3 & 8. \$7-\$9. ®  
DEC 20 & 21: Corpus Christi Ballet, Bayfront Plaza Aud, 1901 N. Shoreline (991-5730). Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker. Sat at 8, Sun at 2. \$6-\$20. ®

## SPORTS

### Charter Boats

Whooping Crane Boat Tour, Mom's Bait Stand at Rockport Boat Basin, IH 35, Rockport (1-729-4855). See the Aransas Wildlife Refuge aboard the 60-foot *Lucky Day* captained by Harry Stout. The whoopers are returning now and you can see them in other waters as well. Four-hour bedding trips leave daily at 8 a.m. at \$16 per person. Reservations suggested, especially for large groups. Small ice chests are available. Call ahead.

### Sailing

Coronado Beach Charter, northeast corner of Peoples' S-T Head (883-7265). Sailing lessons for all skill levels offered, or cruise the bay in half-hour, one-hour, or sunset and moonlight excursions aboard a J-29 or Irwin 38. Cruises are limited to six people. Longer trips are available (reservations necessary). Mon thru Fri 1-6, Sat & Sun 11-6. Call for prices.

## EVENTS

Christmas Tree Forecast, Fisher Art Museum of South Texas, 1902 N. Shoreline (884-3844). More than 50 Christmas trees are decorated in a tree theme. Dec 3 thru 21. Mon thru Fri 9-5, Sat & Sun noon-5. Free. ®

Harbor Lights Ceremony, on the median at Shoreline Dr (882-3459). Official holiday celebration Dec 6 & 6:00 pm, when Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will join the community in lighting the Christmas tree. Boats and buildings along the bayfront also light up at the same time. Lights stay on throughout the holidays. Free. ®

## REVELATION

Centennial House Christmas Floral Showcase, 411 N. Broadway (882-1239). The Heritage Room is decorated by local florists. A Christmas gift shop will also be open. Dec 4 thru 7, 11-4. Adults \$2, children \$1. ® Limited.

## MUSEUMS

Corpus Christi Museum, 1900 N. Chaparral (883-2862). A general museum with exhibits on man, natural history, and earth and marine history. Treasure hunt for children each Sat at 1:30. Tue thru Sat 10-5, Sun 2-5. Free. ®

### A RT

### Institutions

Museum of Oriental Cultures, (426 S. Staples (883-1303). Permanent collection emphasizes Japanese and other oriental cultures. Mon thru Fri 10-4, Sun 2-5. Gen adm \$1, children 25¢. ®

## OUTDOORS

San Jose Island, take the jetty boat from Woods' Boat Basin (1-749-5252) near the ferry landing in Port Aransas and go north across the channel to this unspoiled island. Great beach-combing



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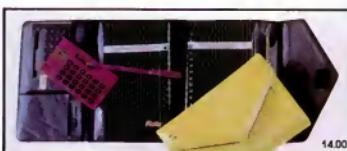
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## NIGHTLIFE

Abracadabra, 2838 Padre Island Dr (851-1801). MTV on giant screens, Top 40 at top volume, and a neon-lighted dance floor. Video games and a pool table at the back relieve impatience boredom. Moo thru Fri 11-2, Sat & Sun 7-2. Cover varies. AE, MC, V.

Canaria Santa Fe, 1011 Santa Fe (884-1756). Jeans and tennies are acceptable attire in this casual watering hole with live music seven nights a week. Food served Mon thru Fri 11-3 p.m. Open Mon thru Fri 11-2, Sat & Sun 7-2. Cover varies. AE, MC, V.

Cheers, 4615 Everhart (857-0011). Out with the comedians, in with the beach umbrella and blackjack table. There's pool, darts, and video poker but mostly country music and country dancing. An occasional band. Lunch buffet 11-2 weekdays (\$3). Open Mon thru Fri 11-2, Sat & Sun 7-2. Cover. S.A. Cr.

## RESTAURANTS

Baja Coast, 2323 S. Staples (992-4747). This seafood restaurant offers a chalkboard's worth of daily specials in addition to the regular menu. We tried the seafood en brochette, shrimp and fish skewered with tomatoes and onions and broiled over mesquite, served with rice and sautéed squash. We were also impressed with our companion's seafood fettuccine prepared with the classic Alfredo sauce plus shrimp and fish. The laid-back, no-frills atmosphere was offset by friendly service and highly acceptable margaritas. Bar from 4. Mon thru Fri 5-11, Fri & Sat till 11:30. Sun till 10. Sun brunch 10-3. Moderate. Cr.

Casa de Roy, 5338 S. Staples (993-1911). The specialties are beef, chicken, or shrimp fajitas, chicken or seafood, and various Mexican specialties from salsas. Accompanied by fresh tortillas, Mexican rice, a none-too-generous scoop of guacamole, and a bowl of frijoles, it's a winner. The beef fajita meat we had in the mariachi tacos, however, was tough and dry. An in-house bakery supplies fresh pastries daily for dessert. Bar. Mon thru Sat 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Sun till 3. Moderate. MC, V.

**UPDATE** Crystal Conchonado, Parkside Plaza, 4119 Staples (857-8081). This crowded fern-island restaurant is the pick of locals because of its California-style Mexican food and its wide selection of seafood and salads. With an even hummed items on the menu, Crystal's has something for everyone. The food is good. Tel 857-8081. Tel 857-8081. More informationally described on the wine list. Service is earnest but sometimes drags; tell your waiter if you're in a hurry. Bar. Sun thru Thurs 11-1, Fri & Sat till 11. Moderate. Cr. ☺ Goliath entrance.

**UPDATE** Good Life Foods, Lamar Park shopping center, 883 S. Alameda (851-8511). A marker board announces the daily sandwiches, soups, and salads, as well as quiches, frozen yogurt, and herbal tea. The menu lists additional healthy avocado-and-alfalfa-sprout-decked offerings. The food is wholesome, but as one regular pointedly remarked, "Our salads do look good, but our big things...the burgers and the wings...were cold and stale on this visit. Service slows tremendously at the crowded lunch hour. Beer & wine. Mon thru Fri 10-6, Sat till 5. Closed Sun. Inexpensive. MC, V. ☺

The Lighthouse, 444 N. Shoreline at Lawrence St T-Head (883-3962). We took a walk interstate to Lawrence Street made famous by a pair of tall lighthouses standing the Wednesday afternoons sailing races. Seafood is the specialty, with boiled shrimp, crab, and raw oysters, as well as Texas blue crab, the obligatory redfish, and several baked oyster dishes. At a recent Sunday brunch, we enjoyed the eggs Benedict and crabmeat in hollandaise sauce. The oysters Bienville (baked to white wine and fish stock, covered with parmesan, diced shrimp, and scallops) pleased us, but the portions were skimpy. Bar. Bar. Sun thru Thurs 11-11, Fri & Sat 11-11, Sunday 11-11. Moderate. AE, MC, V. ☺

**UPDATE** Lotus, 4156 Staples (852-0080). Our friend was here for pizza for sizzling rice soup but was disappointed when it arrived, thin and tasteless. The lemon chicken was indistinguishable except by color from the sweet-and-sour chicken, which was equally tasteless. The beef teriyaki was served with a very sweet sauce; and the beef lung po needed at least four more hot chili. Just when we had decided that these dishes were the chicken-fried stock of Chinese food—cheap, filling, and fast—we tasted the chicken special (a combination of chicken, rice, egg roll, and pork), and it redeemed the meal. Bar. Mon thru Fri 11-1, Sat & Sun 11-11. Inexpensive to moderate. AE, MC, V. ☺

Seahorse Dell & Cafe, 224 N. Chaparral (854-7034). Located just two blocks from the water in downtown Corpus, this dell, with its hearty sandwich and soup menu, should draw the business lunch crowd. We gave it a nod with the sandwich-grilled meat sub, a somewhat odd sandwich with homemade meatballs and provolone cheese, served warm. The good Italian combo, though unimaginative, was packed with lunch meat, lettuce, and tomatoes. A stage takes up one corner of the cafe, and on weekends musicians carry on the tradition of blues music that began when the Seafarers staged in Port Aransas before moving to Corpus in 1965. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Sat 11-1, Dinner Fri & Sat 6-2. Closed Sun. Inexpensive. N. ☺

Talk About Good, 1405 Broadway, Rockport (1-729-2914). A tastefully remodeled building with a soothing view of Key Allegro, the upper cañon of the Nueces River, mesquite grasses, and shrubs. The seafood, with authentic Louisiana seasoning and a profusion of oysters, shrimp, and fish, was accompanied by a lackluster salad. We asked for our mesquite-grilled shrimp with Dirty Rice; the accompanying bread-and-custard casserole in light cream was called the best in town. Dessert consists of Billy's Surprise—a Tollhouse brownie and ice cream that took us right to safety. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-2, Dinner 7 days 5-11. Moderate. MC, V. ☺

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Send general entertainment listings to:

John Clark, Box 50666, Dallas 75205  
Send nightclub reviews to:  
Nightlife, 3429 Princeton, Dallas 75205

## THEATER

### Resident

Dallas Children's Theater, El Centro College, Main & Market (956-9022). Tue thru Thur at 10, Fri at 10 & 7:30, Sat at 10:30 & 4:30. \$3-\$4. DEC 11 THRU 21: The Best Children's Christmas Pageant Ever!

Dallas Theater Center, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd (526-8857). Tue thru Thur at 8, Fri at 8:30, Sat at 4 & 8:30, Sun at 2 & 7:30. \$11-\$22.

THRU DEC 7: All the King's Men—adaptation of the novel by Robert Penn Warren. At 8, Fri at 8:30. Sat at 4 & 8:30. Sun at 2 & 7:30. \$9-\$22.

THRU DEC 28: A Christmas Carol. Greenville Avenue Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 1611 Greenville Ave (821-4000). Thu thru Sat at 8 & 7. \$6.50-\$7.50. Call for additional performance schedule.

THRU DEC 22: Ebenezer Scrooge. Kirby Burks Marionettes, 3059 Northaven Rd (353-9277). Fri at 7:30, Sat at 10, 1 & 3, Sun at 3. \$3.

DEC 13 THRU 20: That Time of Year—holiday musical. New Stage, 1925 Elm (640-7400). Mon at 7:30. Wed thru Fri at 8, Sat at 2 & 6, Sun at 2:30. \$10.75-\$14.25.

DEC 5 THRU JAN 11: Mother Goose—musical based on the Pegasus Theatre, 3916 Main (821-6005). Wed thru Sat at 8:15. \$8-\$12.

THRU DEC 20: Bluebeard—comedy-thriller by Charles Ludlam. DEC 31 THRU JAN 17: A Trifle Dead—comedy murder mystery.

THRU DEC 3, the Quadrangle, 2800 Routh (871-3300). Tue thru Fri at 8:15, Sat at 3:30 & 8:15, Sun at 2:30 & 7:15. \$10-\$18.50. Call for discount performances.

DEC 10 THRU JAN 17: Blith Spirit—comedy by Noel Coward.

## MUSIC Classical

DEC 2 & 5: Dallas Opera, Fair Park Music Hall, 1st & Parry (871-0090). Bellini: La Sonnambula. Frederica von Stade, mezzo-soprano. Nicola Rescigno, conductor. At 8. \$4-\$20.

DEC 7: Dallas Opera. (See Dec 2 & 5 for program.) At 2. \$12-\$15. SMU Mustang Chorale and Choir, SMU Caruth Acad. Bishop & Buckley (692-3510). Christmas concert. A14-A. Free. Call ahead.

DEC 9: Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm (521-0844). At 8:15. \$5-\$12.50.

DEC 10: SMU Opera Theatre, SMU Caruth Acad. Bishop & Buckley (692-3510). Operatic excerpts. At 8:15. Free. Call ahead.

DEC 13, 16 & 18: Dallas Opera, Fair Park Music Hall, 1st & Parry (871-0090). Puccini: La Fanciulla del West. Marilyn Zischau, soprano. Giuseppe Giacchino, tenor. Nicola Rescigno, conductor. At 8. \$4-\$20.

DEC 20: 20th Century Band Ensemble, St. Stephen United Methodist Church, 2520 Cass Dr. Mesquite (279-2458 or 278-1636). Handel: Messiah. At 7:30. Call for prices.

DEC 21: Dallas Bach Orchestra and Choir, Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm (827-8886). Handel: Messiah. At 7:30. Call for prices.

A full-page photograph of a woman from the waist up, wearing a voluminous, dark brown fur coat with a light-colored fur collar. She is standing outdoors in a snowy environment, with snow-covered evergreen trees and a wooden building in the background.

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## DALLAS

DEC 21: Dallas Opera. (See Dec 13, 16 & 18 for program.) At 2.

DEC 31: Dallas Bach Orchestra, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 6306 Kertonwood (827-8886). Music from the baroque period. At 10. Call for prices. (G) Front entrance.

### Pop, Rock, Jazz, Etc.

DEC 4: SMU Jazz Ensemble, SMU Caruth Auditorium, Bishop & Binkley (692-3510), At 11:15. Free. (G) Call ahead.

DEC 12 THRU 14: Vocal Majority, Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm (640-7400). Popular Christmas music by barbershop group. At 8. \$12-\$15.

## DANCE

DEC 4 THRU 6: Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm (640-7400). Deep Elum Blues, inspired by Alan Garner's film. Deep Elum Blues, is a tribute to the music and dance of the blues. Part of Dallas Black Dance Theater. (D) David Johnson (choreographer of The Wiz) choreography. David "Faithful" Newman wrote the score. At 8:15. \$8-\$60. (See p. 38.)

DEC 20 THRU 31: Dallas Ballet, Fair Park Music Hall, 1st & Perry (744-4430). Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker (choreography by Flemming Flindt). Call for schedule. \$5-\$60. (G)

### SPORTS Basketball

Dallas Mavericks, Reunion Arena, 777 Sports St (658-7068). Dec 10. Portland Trailblazers. Dec 16: San Antonio Spurs. Dec 19: Los Angeles Lakers. Dec 22: Dallas Mavericks. Dec 27: Phoenix Suns. At 7:30 unless otherwise noted. \$5-\$27. (G)

Dallas Morning News Classic, Moody Coliseum, Airline & Binkley (692-2902). Dec 13 & 14: SMU Mustangs host Purdue, North Carolina, and Townsend State. At 7 & 9:15. \$10.

SMU Mustangs, Moody Coliseum, Airline & Binkley (692-2902). Dec 1: Texas Southern. Dec 10: Hardin-Simmons. Dec 12: Prairie View A&M. At 7:30. \$7.

### Football

Dallas Cowboys, Texas Stadium, 2401 E. Airport Fwy, Irving (556-2500). Dec 14 at noon: Philadelphia Eagles. Dec 21 at 3: Chicago Bears. \$19. (G) Sections 20 & 21.

## EVENTS

DickensFest, take IH 35E to exit 401B, turn left on Texas Hwy 287 and proceed to Town Square, Waxahachie (937-6130). Recreation of 19th-century town with costumed characters, entertainers, and artisans exhibiting demonstrations, old-time pup shows, Father Christmas, and Victorian holiday food. Dec 6 & 7, 13 & 14 at 10. Adults \$4, children \$1. under 5 free.

## MUSEUMS

Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, 2nd Ave & Grand (670-8457). In Bison Hall: skeleton of a mammoth discovered along the banks of the Trinity River. In main lobby: the Heath Monolith, reconstruction of skeleton of a 60-foot-long sea lizard that inhabited this area 75 million years ago. Mon thru Fri 9-5, Sun & holidays noon-5. Free. (G)

Old City Park, 1717 Gano (421-5141). Restored buildings from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Dec 4 thru 7: annual Candlelight Tour—lanterns hung from trees, light paths throughout the park. Building are open daily for tours, and there are crafts, bake sales, refreshments, and a visit from Santa top off the festivities (call for schedule: \$2-\$5). Park open Tue thru Sat 10-4, Sun 1:30-4:30. Free (tour add \$4, children \$2).

Science Place I, Fair Park, 2nd Ave between Grand & Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd (428-8355). Thru Jan 14: China—7,000 Years of Discovery—largest-ever traveling exhibit from People's Republic of China features demonstrations of ancient Chinese technologies and more than 500 artifacts, including ancient pottery, bronze vessels, and a 100-year-old compass. (Appointments \$2-\$7). Thru Feb 15: Chips and Changes—hands-on microelectronics exhibit features computer games, a talking thermometer, memory experiments, and a game of chance, and demonstrated pottery. Open Tues thru Sat 9:30-6:30 and Sun 1-5. Old location Science Place II (Fair Park, 1st & Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd; 428-8351), are more exhibits and planetarium shows (Sat & Sun at 2 & 4:30; 50¢ & \$1). (G) Open Tue thru Sat 9:30-5, Sun noon-5. Gen admissions \$1, children 50¢.

### ART Institutions

Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood (922-0220; for daily information, press 1 on payphone handset). Thurs Jan 4: Conservation 14. Picnics & Brewster Series. (See p. 38.) Prints of various styles modeled on still-life painting by Jan Brueghel. Dec 21 thru Feb 8: Robert Rauschenberg. Work from Four Series—30 works use cardboard, fabrics, and solvent-transfer images. (See p. 38.) Dec 21 thru Mar 15 in the Peacock Room. (See p. 38.) Other exhibits include local collections. In second-floor galleries: highlights from the Faish P. and Charles L. Bybee Collection—31 historical examples of the furniture maker's craft from the 18th and early 19th centuries. Decorative Arts Wing has paintings by van Gogh, Cézanne, Renoir, Gauguin, and Picasso. (See p. 38.) Reservations required (call for details). The Gallery Buffet serves lunch and affords a good view of the sculpture garden. Tues thru Sat 10-5, Thur 10-9, Sun noon-5. Free. (G)

Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young (749-4153 or 749-4100). Thurs Jan 1: History of the Dallas Civic Center. Thurs Dec 30: Scenes of Santa Fe—drawings and paintings by Edward G. Eisenhour. Thurs Dec 31: Dallas in the Thirties—historical photographs and memorabilia. Mon thru Thurs 9-5, Fri & Sat 9-5. Sun 1-5. Free. (G)



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## DALLAS

**U P D A T E** **Cafe Margaux**, 4424 Lovers Lane (739-0886). The chef menu offers a mixture of classic and regional French themes. A management motto is "nothing is prepared with precision. An arresting opener is oysters Bienville, with the usual bechamel sauce replaced by chèvre and seasonings. Another appetizer - red kidney beans, sautéed rice, and smoked paprika - hints Tennessee barbecue flavor. The filet mignon with chopped scallions on top but could have done without the superfluous ham. Soft-shelled crabs, delicately fried, were paired with perfectly cooked squash, scalloped potatoes, and stuffed mushrooms. The dessert may be the best, with the cream cooking companion. Bar. Sun thru Thurs 6-10, Fri & Sat til 11. Moderate. AE, MC, V.

**Cafe Royal**, Plaza of the Americas Hotel, 650 N. Pearl (747-7222). Cafe Royal has joined the prix fixe crowd with a fancy four-course menu that's a bargain for what you get. A recent evening's offerings included a delicate cream of wild mushroom soup and a pretty salad combining early endive with arugula and radicchio. As an entree we selected a medley of grilled brill, swordfish, and salmon. On the debit side was bland Dover sole, but on the credit side were ambrosial sweetbreads paired with fresh asparagus in a light cream sauce. Dessert was a choice of chocolate or Montrachet. Bar. Sun thru Thurs 6-10:30, Fri & Sat til 11. Closed Sun. Expensive, prix fixe \$34.50. Cr. ®

**U P D A T E** **Capriccio**, 2616 Maple (871-2004). Meltingly duck-filled risotto is perfectly sauced with duck stock and fresh herbs, and the scallops di jocca, poached breast smothered with prosciutto and cheese, arrives sated by garlicky potatoes. Only the bland linguini with seafood failed to be first-rate on our most recent visit to this pleasantly restored old house. The rooms are warmly paneled, the service attentive. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-2:30, 5-8; Sat 11-2:30, 5-10; Sun 11-2:30, 5-8. Dinner Mon thru Fri 6-10, Sat 11-3, 5-10; Sun 11-2:30, 5-8. Moderate. Cr.

**U P D A T E** **Casa Rossa**, Inwood Village Inn, 6200 Lovers Ln. (350-5227). On any given weekend at least half of all Park Cities people can probably be found in Santa Fe. Thos nostalgic for that city's cuisine, which blends Mexican with Southwestern and Italian fare, can find a limited number of authentic dishes on Casa Rossa's menu. Enchiladas, fajitas, and corn chips have a distinct flavor (muffled, alas, by the piquant red sauce); next time we'll try the milder green chile sauce. The hominy-based posole was no more interesting here than in New Mexico, but the tortilla chips invited lingering. The fern-draped atrium invites lingering. Bar. Mon thru Thurs 11-3, 5-10; Fri 11-2:30, 5-8; Sat 11-11, Sun 11-10. Moderate. Cr.

**Celebration**, 4503 W. Lovers Ln. (351-5681). The spirit of good home cooking lives on here, where tender pot roast, juicy baked chicken, and even meat loaf are daily staples. Celebration's one up on its competition in the area of desserts, however, with enough ingredients to get a big helping of fruit cobblers topped with ice cream. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Sat 11-2:30, Dinner Mon thru Thurs 5:30-10, Fri & Sat 5-11, Sun 11-11. Inexpensive. Cr.

**Chez Gerard**, 4444 McKinney (532-6865). Both the chic clientele and the restaurant's location, a corner of historic Uptown, are filled with chicken mousse arrived cooked to an eraserlike consistency, and the seafood proved far too soupy and bland. Dessert was something to cheer about, though: a delicious Floating Island and French silk pie, both off the menu. Bar. Mon thru Thurs 11-2:30, Dinner Mon thru Sat 5-11. Closed Sun. Moderate. Cr.

**Chiquito**, Congress & Oak Lawn (532-0721). The atmosphere is breezy, and low lighting sets off the tones of peach through. Delicious, plump poblano peppers are stuffed with either beef or cheese, battered, fried, and served piping hot with rancheros. And the desserts are about as good as you'd expect elsewhere. Mon thru Thurs 11:30-10:30, Fri & Sat 11-11. Closed Sun. Inexpensive. AE, MC, V. ®

**Crystal Pagoda**, 4516 McKinney (526-3335). As in most oriental restaurants, the menu is encyclopedic, but we quickly zeroed in on just a few items that were clearly superior. The stir-fried vegetables were a wonder. The carrots, onions, and celery accompanying our shrimp were not only a visual delight, but also were cooked al dente. Diced pork Hunan came with florets of orange-brown broccolini, bamboo shoots, and straw mushrooms. Bar. Mon thru Thurs 11:30-10:30, Fri 11-11, Sun noon-11. Sun noon-10:30. Moderate. AE, MC, V.

**Enjoli**, Mandalay Four Seasons Hotel, 221 S. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving (556-0800). In a nod to culinary fitness, certain appetizers, salad, and entrée combinations here weigh in at under 650 calories. We were disappointed, however, in a couple of salads that had several rounds stuffed with wild mushrooms. An equally slimming entrée, veal medallions topped with hot, sweet ginger, would have been worth almost any caloric count (the nouvelle presentations notwithstanding), but it did taste though. We tried to blow our healthy kick out the window, however, because the most we wanted was the cheek. Formal but not intimidating decor. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-30, Dinner Mon thru Sat 6:30-10:30. Closed Sun. Very expensive. Cr. ® Via elevator.

**\*\*\* French Room**, Adolphus Hotel, 1321 Commerce (747-2222). Rich foods in equal measure are de rigueur here, and the options include a wealth of dried fruits, cheeses, and crystal chandeliers. The artichoke soup has a lovely, intense flavor that makes it a perfect starter. Duck breast is fanned out in a pool of cassoulet-style, and tender lamb chops are bordered with garlic-mashed potatoes. After the meal, we were at the point, but the apple tart, fizzy and juicy, really deserves consideration. In spite of the formidable surroundings, service is refreshingly helpful and friendly. Coat & tie. Bar. Dinner Mon thru Sat 6-10:30. Closed Sun. Reservations well in advance. Very expensive. Cr.

**U P D A T E** **Gazza Blanca**, 2508 Maple (871-0330). The huge onion platter is one of the best deals in town, featuring tiny flautas, tasty guacamole, potent *pico de gallo*, and two kinds of nachos. The Texas Tex-Mex entries fare equally well, though we prefer the spicier ones. Barbecue? No. If someone would just persevere the management to rewrite the incorrigibly cutsey menu, a meal in this charming renovated old house would be just about perfect. Bar. Mon thru Thurs 10-10, Fri & Sat 11-11, Sun 4-10. Inexpensive to moderate. Cr.

**The Grape**, 2808 Greenville (823-0133). While the decor has remained unchanged—yes, the grape-cluster lights still hang from the

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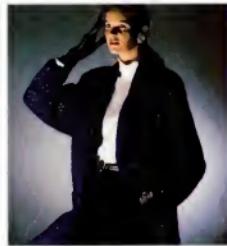
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## DALLAS

sailing, and the room is still small and close-tucked—the food has kept up with the times. Spinach salad was an expertly dressed assemblage of crisp greens, and the well scallops, though chewy, were nicely sauced in Marsala with sliced mushrooms. Red snapper was harvested from the Gulf of Mexico, and the spot—spicy, though we had to struggle to discern even a faint tanginess. Best of all, perhaps, was the treatment of vegetables—*al dente* and full of flavor. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-2 (inexpensive). Dinner Sun thru Thur 6-11, Fri & Sat till midnight (moderate). Cr. ®

Hungry Jockey, 1417 Preston Forest Square, Preston & Forest (903-466-1040). Edible Indian food is the specialty here, and home-cooking fits ends up at this tiny shopping center cafe. We're partial to the breakfasts, featuring hearty egg and bacon repasts. For lunch, hamburgers, sides with fresh vegetables, hit the spot. For dinner, hamburgers, sides with fresh vegetables, hit the spot.

For lunch, hamburgers, sides with fresh vegetables, hit the spot. For dinner, hamburgers, sides with fresh vegetables, hit the spot. Mon thru Sat 9-30 a.m.-2 p.m., Sun 11-30 a.m. Inexpensive. N. ®

Indian Palace, 1000 Main (903-211-9091). Edible Indian food is the specialty here this winter, and we can get the rag-tanums right here at home. Somes (vegatable turnover) appetizers are large enough for two, and we wished we had shared an order when we saw our entrees arrive. We tried chicken Jalfrezi (hot and were asked to add more) and lamb Korma (medium heat). Both were filled with ground spices, then combined with onion, tomato, and bell pepper.

The Jaipur-style beef curry was less assertively spiced, and the beef was less tender. From the comprehensive selection of Indian breads we chose naan, which was soft and served with buttery yogurt. Bar. Mon thru Fri 11-12, Sat & Sun 11-30 a.m. Dinner Sun thru Thur 5-10, Fri & Sat 5-10:30. Cr. Moderate.

Kuby's, the Brewery, 703 McKinney (954-0044). Venerable Park Cities deli goes big time. The handicome Teutonic warehouse with clinging beer stains and moaning accordion seems apropos for such a place. The menu is a mix of German and American wurst and sandwiches have been updated with sly combinations: onion and apple shavings with sour cream cut the edge of briny herring files; Roulasses (thin-sliced beef) are rolled around spears of pickle with bacon, mustard, and onions and served on rye bread. The German potato salad is also a winner. Poutine seemed too vinegary, but Aebleskiver was orchard-fresh and temptingly presented mit Schlagsahne. Bar. Mon thru Thur 11-11, Fri 11-midnight, Sat 5-midnight. Closed Sun. Inexpensive to moderate. AE, MC, V. ®

L'Ancestral, 4516 Travis (528-1081). L'Ancestral is one of the first restaurants at Travis Walk, the newly opened Highland Park shopping-office complex. The menu arrived intact from the Greenville location, and the same enthusiastic family runs it and we feel right at home. A sweet, simple entree was the sole reason to whet our appetite for roast veal, a nice piece of meat that needed more seasoning. Fresh vegetables and a virtual haystack of thin, brittle french fries completed the dish. The now-familiar chocolate truffle cake from the frosty Floating Island sent us away at peace with the world. Bar. Mon thru Fri 11-10, Fri & Sat till 11. Closed Sun. Moderate. Cr. ®

Lombardi's, 311 N. Market (747-0322). Wainers negotiate the surface chase with good humor (and occasional harmony), as the strains of "Happy Birthday" in Italian are occasionally offered, and the waiters are invited to instantly friendship with perfect strangers. A fairly predictable Italian menu offers up good, crunchy calamari and zucchini, and we're still happy with the eggplant, lightly layered with prosciutto and sauteed with mushrooms. It was a fair choice, though, for our entrees—a combination of basil pesto and raspberry shrimp. The jury is still out on the cappuccino mouse—one school of taste rates it extravagantly rich; the other, overwhelmingly sweet. Bar. Mon thru Thur 11-midnight, Fri 11-1 a.m., Sat 5-1 a.m., Sun 11-10. Reservations accepted. Inexpensive. AE, MC, V. ®

M a Mansion on Turtle Creek, 2821 Turtle Creek Blvd (526-2121). Sometimes we skip fancy appetizers just to see if the tortilla soup is really as good as we remember—and sure enough, it is. Fans of fowl flock to local birds such as the Texas pheasant, while others opt for the more familiar fare of chicken wings, apple slices, or perhaps bone-in free-range chicken encircled with "tobacco" onions, fried to a brown crisp. Seared Pacific red tuna comes with leaves of crispy fried basil, julienne vegetables, and oriental mustard-ginger paste. This is truly the place for anyone who loves to have fun in the kitchen. Bar. Breakfast 7-10:30. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2:30, 4-7:30. Dinner 7 days 6-10:30. Supper Mon thru Fri 10:30-11:30, 4-7:30. Fri & Sat 11-midnight. Brunch Sun noon-2:30, Sun 11-2:30. Reservations required. Very expensive, brush price \$20. Cr.

Mia's, 4418 Lemmon Ave (526-1020). "Check in with Mama Mia" reads the front door sign, advice often heeded by suburban family groups and Oak Lawn types alike, who all wind up sitting carboiled at tipping point. And when they do, they do it well. The crowd recommends good things—bacon does very well, such as the bacon-lettuce-tomato fad with melted cheese, planters of fajitas, and, best of all, the chef's special, a no-nonsense grilled chicken breast smothered in a spicy, creamy sauce. On the water, the house-made Beer 'n wine. Mon thru Fri 11-8 & 5-10, Sat 11-10. Closed Sun. Inexpensive. N.

Mr. Pepper, 5617 W. Lovers La (532-5976). This place reminds us of some of our dear older relatives—solid, dependable, comforting, and perhaps just the tiniest bit boring. The predictable brandy-flamed pepper steak was fine, but a special of sole with shrimp proved too garlicky. On the water, the house-made Beer 'n wine. The price of the sole entree comes with soup (creamy, a flavorful shrimp bisque) and salad. Desserts, especially the crème caramel, are as good as they can be. Bar. Mon thru Sun 6-10. Closed Sun. Reservations advised. Moderate. Cr. ®

Mr. Sushi, 4600 Bell Line (903-466-0111). Our crowd is usually gathered around the sushi bar, drinking Kirin beer and exchanging quips with the speedy-knived sushi chefs. Since raw fish is not everyone's cup of green tea, there's a menu as well. The fried soft-shell crab are crunchy, and the vegetable tempura is a delicate affair. The tempura is served with a light dipping sauce and a wonderfully salty broth. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2. Dinner



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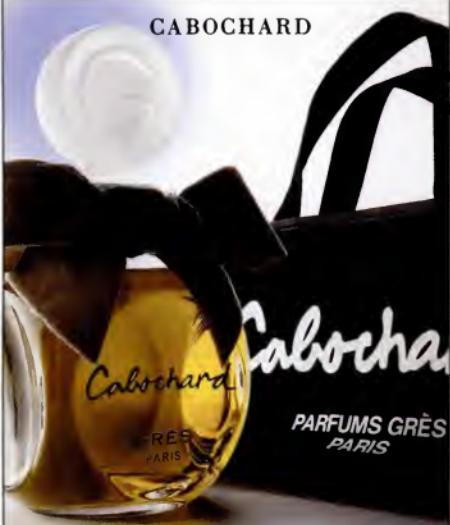
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**A TIMELY BONUS FOR HIM.** The Carlton Watch, plus an oz. sample of Royal Copenhagen cologne, just 20.00 with any 15.00 Copenhagen purchase. The Collection, 12.50 to 47.50.

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*Marshall Field's & Christmas*

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TRAVEL TRIO FOR HER. What an inseparable foursome; you and 2 oz. Eau de Spray, 2 oz. Body Lotion, 2 oz. Bath and Shower Gel. Only 22.00. The Collection, 10.00 to 130.00.

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A BUBBLING BONUS FOR HER. Champagne Celebration includes: a perfectly packaged tray with Spray Cologne, Body Moisturizer, 10 eye shadows, 2 Blushers, Mascara and 2 Brushes. Yours for 18.50 with a 15.00 Halston Women's Fragrance purchase. The Collection, 15.00 to 120.00.

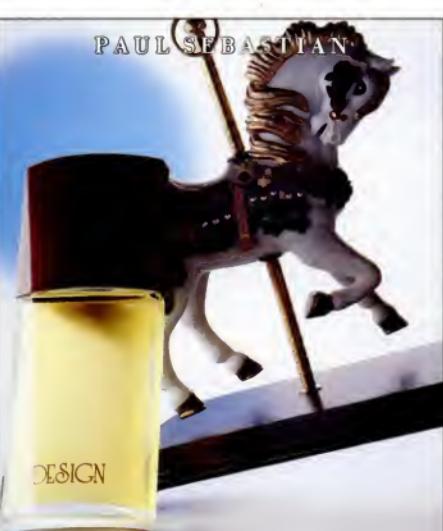
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*Marshall Field's & Christmas*

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A HOLIDAY GIFT FOR HER. The Golden Queen Carousel Horse. Handpainted on porcelain, with a brass pole and wood base. Yours with any 22.50 Paul Sebastian Design fragrance purchase. The Collection, 15.00 to 55.00.

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A GIFT OF CELEBRATION. Uncork this champagne bottle filled with 20 oz. of Maxim's de Paris Bath and Shower Gel. Yours with any Maxim's de Paris fragrance purchase. Collection, 20.00 to 120.00.

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A GIFT FOR THE MODERN MAN. .85 oz. All Over Shampoo, .85 oz. After Shave Balm, and a bar of scented soap in their own pouch. Yours with any purchase of Krizia Uomo. The Collection, 16.00 to 35.00.

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*Marshall Field's e Christmas*

## DALLAS

Mon thru Thur 5:30-10:30, Fri & Sat til 11, Sun til 10. Moderate. Cr.

Nero's Italian, 2104 Greenville (826-6376). The variety of pizzas at this neighborhood place are always popular, but the changing daily specials are more intriguing. A recent meal here included tasty eggplant carpaccio (sliced slices of eggplant marinated with melted mozzarella) and topped with fresh mozzarella, basil pesto, tomato sauce, and a drizzle of olive oil. And a flavorful swordfish steak smothered with crunchy cooked onions and spiced with capers. Bar. Mon thru Thur 6-11, Fri & Sat til midnight. Closed Sun. Moderate. AE, MC, V. (2)

Newport's, the Brewery, 703 McKinney (954-0220). The warehouse space with an emphasis on the merits of the beer it serves is hard-earned, noisy, but great for conversation, or the food, not conversation. On a recent visit, the lemon sole, neatly filleted tableside, and a grilled sea bass were both perfectly cooked and flavorful. Such simple preparations usually outcome more complex results. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2:30. Dinner Mon thru Thur 5:30-10:30, Fri & Sat til 11. Closed Sun. Moderate to expensive. Cr.

**B P R A T I** \* Old Warsaw, 2610 Maple (528-0032). This spot can take much of the credit in Dallas for raising restaurant standards in art, so it's fitting that its new location (it's moving in March '87) will be in the downtown arts district. In the meantime, the chandeliers still glitter and the waiters still glide about at the present location. We've always regarded the ultimate combination of well-cooked steak tartare and foie gras as the best meal to call the meat-and-bread with chestnuts and brown sauce a minor masterpiece. The chocolate soufflé mounded with whipped cream could be a still life, it's so elegant. Coat & tie, no denim. Bar. Sun thru Tues 5-11, Wed 5-10:30. Reservations necessary. Very expensive. Cr. (2)

Pantel's, 1928 Greenville (823-8711). Owner Pete Lucas is unusually presiding over this big, dimly lit room with its gleaming wood bar. A selection of light menu items, including wonderful orange-flavored Greek sausage, is augmented with a few dinner selections (an unseasonable choice is a combination of lamb and chicken). Beverages are two standouts. Desserts really taste homemade—we have fond memories of the chunky apple walnut cake. Bar. Dinner Mon thru Wed 5-11:30, Thur Sun 5-11, Sun 5-11. Moderate to expensive. AE, MC, V. (2)

**B P R A T I** \* Oaklawn Plaza, 1444 Oak Lawn (742-4433). Meticulously enhance the art deco surroundings in this stylish new restaurant where Avner Samuel is experimenting at the cutting edge of new American cuisine. Noting the rage for crab cakes, we tried, and loved, Samuel's version with wasabi mayonnaise. Another favorite was the veal medallions with a dye for jet-black linguine with crabmeat flecked with tarragon. The veal medallions, sautéed with marjoram mint, were lightly sauced in cream and added with colorful red peppers and corn. A basket of chips was topped with bits of bell pepper and miniature barbecue muffins were so addictive we had to crave for diet sheets. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2:30. Dinner Mon thru Sat 6-10. Closed Sun. Expensive. AE, MC, V.

**B P R A T I** Pucci, 4514 Travis, Suite 133 (521-7450). This Travis Walk Italian eatery is the sort of continental high-tech, gleaming stainless steel to die in its casting. The pasta, any of which may be ordered half-portions, provide no surprises. With winter howling at our heels, we looked for something more substantial and settled on *mazzone ripiena con zucchine*, an oven-baked eggplant dish served with very hollow shells in marinara sauce and topped with mozzarella. We would have stopped short of dessert, for we found the white chocolate mousse very unchocolately. Eyes closed, we'd have guessed it was just whipped cream. Bar. Mon thru Thur 6-11, Fri & Sat 5-11, Sun 5-10. Closed Sun. Moderate. AE, V.

Raphael's, 3701 McKinney (521-9546). Home-style crust. Mexican flavors and overcooked objets d'art, good Mexican food is being dishes out in comfortable surroundings. A do-it-yourself soft taco place draws from a platter of hot tortillas, *pico de gallo*, rice, and beans. Beef, beans, onions, rice, cheese, and sour cream. Margaritas on high marks, too. Bar. Mon thru Fri 11:30-2 & 5:30-10:30, Sat noon-10:30. Closed Sun. Inexpensive. Cr.

The Riviera, 7709 Inwood Rd (351-0094). The room is softly lit and the service highly efficient. One of the better appetizers is a roasted bell pepper tart filled with onions, sausage, and tomatoes. Of the salads, cold and hot, the best is the baked potato. A meatless roast is a good option. Chet Dillard and Lori Hobson prepare fish in several forms. A favorite is lightly sauced, steamed Norwegian salmon paired with sea scallops in a white wine butter sauce with rosemary. Bar. Mon thru Thur 6:30-10:30, Fri & Sat 6:30-11, Sun 5:30-10:30. Moderate. Cr.

**B P R A T I** Ruth Street Cafe, 3005 Ruth (871-7164). Is there anything that can't be grilled? Why not try grilled-corn soup, whose smoky flavor is perfectly complemented by two kinds of *crème fraîche*—one with essence of cilantro, the other with lime juice. The grilled filet mignon is more tender and more finely than a tender beef filet topped with the sweet Hawaiian garnish? Since American foods are *au courant*, sample a huckleberry tart. Luckily, this spot is more than a showcase for fashionable food-loving prima donnas. Superb, well-priced steaks grace the menu, the stellar exception being the ribeye. Bar. Dinner Tues thru Sat 6-10:30. Light food in the lounge Tue thru Thur 6-midnight. Fri & Sat till 1 a.m. Closed Sun & Mon. Reservations required. Price fixe \$42. Cr.

Ruggier's Restaurant, 2911 Routh (871-7377). Ruggier's continues to hold its own amid Dallas Italian eateries. Our meal was served at a leisurely pace by a helpful and courteous staff. The spinach salad was as varied as an antipasto tray and featured a collage of spinach, artichoke hearts, roasted peppers, hearts of palm, and aged cheese. One of the prime offerings is the *risotto*, a delightful combination of arborio rice, scallops, and clams in a garlicky butter sauce. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2:30. Dinner Sun thru Thur 6-11, Fri & Sat till 11:30. Moderate. Cr.

Ruth's Chris, 5922 Cedar Springs (902-8080). It seems that everything in this new location for Ruth's Chris is overdone—the dining room, the heat, the size of portions, and the quality of the servers. In this bustling, masculine scene, steaks reign supreme, but other offerings included juicy, thick lamb chops, lobster, salmon, and king crab. One New York sirloin strip was described as being U.S.



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D A L L A S

## DALLAS • EL PASO

prime aged beef, corn-fed, and from a Midwestern state. True to form, it was rosy-pink, broiled exactly to order, and quite tender. The only fault we found with the kitchen was the burned onions, which ruined a plate of Lyonnaise potatoes. Forget candlelight and romance; get the hot, salty french fries. Beer & wine. Mon thru Sat 5-11. Expensive. Cr. (S)

**UPDATE** S&D Oyster Company, 2701 McKinney (823-6350). The decibel level is fairly high here, as just about everyone from local politicians to out-of-town visitors cheerfully wail in line. Red-aproned, short-haired waiters in tattered aprons of many colors, we're easily able to find the fresh whole broiled flounder, and manage to save room for the hot, salty french fries. Beer & wine. Mon thru Thur 11-10, Fri & Sat 11. Closed Sun. inexpensive. MC, V.

Solly's, 4801 Belt Line at Inwood (387-2007). "Casual" is mentioned on the logo, that translates as mainly barbecue—and plenty of it. One of our favorites is Solly's steak, a big bowl of bricked brisket, bits of barbecue Polish sausage, and flavorful smoked beans. Small orders include real french fries and cole slaw. The place is packed with people. Beer & wine. Mon thru Fri 11-10, Sat 10-3, Sun 11-2, but may close earlier if they run out of beef. Inexpensive. N. (S)

Sushi on McKinney, 4500 McKinney (521-0969). Presiding over the city's longest sushi bar is a venerable sensei, as pictured on the menu. He's active in the kitchen, and busy assistants in pattern T-shirts. Appetizers of fried soft-shelled crabs and yakatori—chicken, tidbits and onions grilled on a skewer—were tasty and light. Sushi arrived on a rosewood block—immaculate (good for the camera). The "Tuna Teriyaki" soy sauce for dipping and shaved ginger for cleansing the palate. Teryaki was remarkably tender grilled sirloin, moist chicken breast, or salmon and our unique dessert consisted of a dozen of shaved ice covered green tea cream swirls with raspberry bean sauce. Fashionable baby vegetables and angel-hair pasta were a work of art in any language. Bar. Sun thru Thur 11-10-30. Moderate to expensive. MC, V. (S)

**UPDATE** Tong's House, 1910 Preston Road Shopping Center, Dallas (936-4820). Tong's House is a restaurant that's brave enough to try a cold-served egg's ear, but we found a more-than-satisfactory meal from the tangy hot-and-sour cabbage, the orange beef Szechuan-style (possibly rivaling the version at Uncle Ta's), and a special of sauteed asparagus, tender and crisp. The atmosphere is that of a shopping center, and the exciting menu makes the difference. Bar. Mon thru Sat 11-9-30, Sun 11-9, AE, MC, V. inexpensive.

**UPDATE** Uncle Ta's, Galleria, third level, 13350 Dallas (934-9799). Uncle Ta's is a restaurant that's sleek and modern with courteous, attentive waiters very much in evidence. The burgundy and dove-gray colors are soothing and a nice spring of gayfeather (a native perennial) graces each table. The menu includes a variety of Chinese specialties, including a milder menu—noodles—but also exciting. Jacket at dinner. Bar. Mon thru Thur 11-10, Fri & Sat 11-10-30. Sun brunch moon. \$10. dinner 3-10. Expensive. Cr. (S)

### Small, new, or offbeat places to try

Arcadia Bar, 2114 Greenville (821-1300). Lower Greenville probably is just about as close to Bourbon St as you can get in Dallas, so it's no surprise to find a New Orleans Cajun restaurant. The menu includes gumbo, jambalaya, andouille, and chicken, is a treat. Fried catfish is lightly battered and perfectly fried. Most entrees come with a side of major proportions. Live music Thur thru Sat 9-30-2. Bar. Open 7 days 5-2. inexpensive. AE, MC, V.

La Balsa de Blas, 2025 Elm (939-0853). Dining spots have been known to follow nightclubs into Deep Ellum. This Mexican restaurant—attractive without being cute—touches all phases of the neighborhood's transition. Workers and very late partiers can greet the dawn with chilaquiles (eggs scrambled with fried corn tortillas) or huevos rancheros (available on Sunday mornings). Beef options include carne asada (smashingly thin grilled skirt steak). Lighter fare is the cheese-filled chili relleno lightly topped with melted onions, peppers, and tomatoes. Live music Sun 11-10-30. Bar. Mon thru Sat 11-10-30. Thur 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed Sun. inexpensive. MC, V. (S)

Madame Chang, across fromur from Crescent Court Hotel, 2200 Cedar Springs (871-3838). The local glitziere who opened night parties here pronounced Ben and Susan Chang's restaurant the brightest new star on the culinary horizon. Over 100 items, giant dumplings, and the like, are served in dimly lit rooms decorated with wall-to-wall murals. On the menu cuisine chinoise—Chinese food prepared with French know-how—intrigues the imagination. We delighted in creamed bamboo shoots soup almost as light as a broth, and ribbed beef with rice. The desserts were equally enticing. Madame Chang is a work of art in any language. Bar. Sun thru Thur 11-10-30. Moderate. AE, MC, V. (S)

May Dragon, 4848 Bell Line (392-9995). Why could resist a dish called "purple happiness"? We could, and did, but we had a small entree of shrimp stir-fry, mustard in a white wine sauce sided by spicy cubed chicken and orange peel. The Americanized menu includes crab à la Joe, fried wonton stuffed with crab and cheese, not very authentic but nonetheless delicious. The decor befitting a Chinese restaurant is a combination of traditional and modern. Thur 11-10-30, Fri 11-11, Sat 11-30-11, Sun 11-10-30. Cr. Moderate. (S)

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Trejo's Aleman, Carroll Plaza, 13601 Preston Rd (387-2620). New Texano Aleman is North Dallas sophisticate: crystal chandeliers, light upholstered walls, and a menu that focuses on mariscos (seafood). Fisherman's soup, with large chunks of cod and scallops, was excellent. The seafood platter was a mix of fresh fish with pasta was an engaging entrée—clams, shrimp, mussels, and octopus atop this strands of whole wheat pasta with a garnish of goat cheese crowning the top. Cabrito al horne (roasted lamb) was a good choice. The house specialty, however, is the paella. Don't fault the flavor, but bland and mushy would be our preference. Bar. Mon thru Thur 11-9-30, Fri & Sat 10:30. Closed Sun. inexpensive. Cr. (S)

Trotter's, One Dallas Centre, Bryan at St. Paul (953-1333). Once rustic, Trotter's Chin Parlor is now an ornate, well-landed establishment with a dining room, a lounge, and a bar.

That famed bowl of Texas red (available for direct comparison with Yankee versions also on the menu) has been extensively supplemented with other allegedly native Texas foods: nachos, piano beans, and the like. The house specialty is the paella. Finish off with fudge pie or an East Texas forkberry sundae. This is a great place for out-of-towners to step themselves in Texas culinary "traditions." (Bar) (With live music Fri & Sat til 1). Mon thru Fri 11-8, Fri & Sat 10. Closed Sun. inexpensive. Cr. (S) Via lobby.

## EL PASO

Send general entertainment and nightclub listings to:  
Brad Cooper, 1008 Madeline, El Paso 79902

## THEATER

Resident

Comic Strip, Park at Alta Mesa, 6633 N. Mesa (581-8877). Comedy club. Opens at 7. Shows Thu thru Sun at 8:30 (S). Fri & Sat at 8:30 & 11 (S). Call for headliners & reservations.

El Paso Playhouse, 2501 Montana (532-1317). Fri & Sat at 8. \$5. Reservations suggested. (S) But not all areas.

THRU DEC 20: Sex on the Sixth Floor.

Hersh Zohn Theatre, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, take Pan American Center exit off IH 25 and follow signs 1-800-527-2770. Artistic director is Mark Medoff. The three set plays are "The Last Days of Judgement," but not all areas. DEC 5 THRU 21: A Christmas Carol—the classic story with some twists.

SRO Warehouse Theater, 1301 Texas (533-1671). Sat at 8 & Dec 21 at 2:30. \$7.50. (S) Call ahead.

DEC 5 THRU 21: The Story of Our Teeth.

Studio 101, 101 Art Annex, Sun Bowl Dr., ground floor (747-5118). Thur thru Sat at 8. Sat at 2:30 & 8. Sun at 2:30. \$1. (S) DEC 11 THRU 14: Stories To Be Told—political satire.

## MUSIC Classical

DEC 6: Thouvenel String Quartet, El Paso Museum of Art, 1 Montana (541-4481). At 2. Free. (S)

DEC 9: Choral Extravaganza, Recital Hall, Fox Fine Arts Center, Sun Bowl Dr (747-5606). Music performed by the UT Chorus. At 8. Free. (S)

DEC 12 & 13: El Paso Symphony, El Paso Civic Center Theatre, Sun Bowl Dr (532-3707). Romantic Symphonic Overture. Offshoot: Concerto Rondo for Cello. Biest: L'Arlesiana Suite No. 2. Ofra Harnay, cello. At 8. \$4-\$13.50. (S)

Pop, Rock, Jazz, Etc.

DEC 7: A Child's Holiday. With the Arts, El Paso Civic Center Theater, San Francisco & Santa Fe (541-4481). Performances by Texas Boys Choir, Yale Marimba Band, and the El Paso Brass Quintet. At 1 & 4. \$2-\$3. (S)

DEC 16: Ratt, El Paso County Coliseum, Paisano & Boone (332-4661). At 8. \$14.50. (S) Call ahead.

## DANCE

DEC 19 THRU 21: Ball of the Americas, El Paso Civic Center Theatre, Sun Francisco & Santa Fe (541-4481). Performances by Texas Boys Choir, Yale Marimba Band, and the El Paso Brass Quintet. At 1 & 4. \$2-\$3. (S)

DEC 20: Ratt, El Paso County Coliseum, Paisano & Boone (332-4661). At 8. \$14.50. (S) Call ahead.

## SPORTS

### Basketball

San Bowl Classic, Sun Bowl, Sun Bowl Dr (533-4416). Special Events Center, Baltimore & Mesa (533-4416). Basic, Texas, Arizona, Iowa, State, Utah, Atlanta and UT El Paso compete. Games at 7 & 8. \$8. Youth nights \$2. (S)

UT El Paso Miners, Special Events Center, Baltimore & Mesa (747-5244). Dec 1: Midwestern State. Dec 3: Stephen F. Austin. Dec 5 & 6: Metropolitan Tournament (UT El Paso, Hardin Simmons, Pan American, Appalachian State) at 7 & 9. Dec 13: New Mexico State. Sun at 31. Morgan State. At 7:35 unless indicated otherwise. \$6 & \$8. (S)

### Football

San Bowl Classic, Sun Bowl, Sun Bowl Dr (533-4416). College post-season game. Dec 25. Kickoff at 12:30. \$10-\$40. (S) But not all areas.

### Greyhound and Horse Racing

Jazzer Racetrack, off Av 16 de Septiembre, no east post building and follow signs about one mile ahead (778-4522). Dogs accepted in dollars or pesos. Call El Paso office for passes to Jockey Club. Offshoot: Dog Track, 101 Art Annex, Sun Bowl Dr (747-5606). Follow signs about one mile ahead (778-4522). Dogs accepted in dollars or pesos. Call El Paso office for passes to Jockey Club. Win bars Sun at 7:30, Sun at 2:30 & 7:30. Adm .50¢, parking free. Sunland Park Racetrack, Sunland Park Dr, IH 10 freeway west of downtown (589-1131). Thoroughbred and quarter-horse racing Fri thru Sun at 1. Adm \$1, parking \$1. (S) But not all areas.



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## EL PASO • FORT WORTH

### POINTS OF INTEREST

El Paso Zoo, Evergreen & Paisano (541-4601). New South American Pavilion will open during the holidays. Mon. thru Fri. 9:30-5 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 10-5 p.m. Adults \$1, children 50¢; senior citizens & children under 6 free. (S)

### NIGHTLIFE

Amadeus, ProNeuf Shopping Center, Plaza de la Circulo at the end of Lincoln Ave., next to El Presidente Hotel, Juárez (31447). Disco in a high-tech setting accented with occasional smoke-machine and laser attacks. Despite a modest set fee, it's the only disco we've seen that's been built with taste. Open Thur 8 til 11 p.m. Closed Sun thru Wed. Cover \$.50. N.

Dome Bar, Westin Paseo del Norte Hotel, 101 S. El Paso (334-3000). Downtown's most sophisticated and elegant lounge banks under the Tiffany dome of this renovated historic hotel. The atmosphere is older than the scotch, and worth the high drink prices. Mon thru Fri. 11-10, Sun noon-10, sometimes open later. No cover. Cr. (S)

Kentucky Club, 629 Juárez, Juárez (20647). A must for Sun Bowl visitors is this Old Mexico store-front pub in the middle of curio row in downtown Juárez. Mexican tile, long, hand-carved bar, green leather booths, and a good selection of beer. Sun thru Sat 8 til 11. No cover. N. (S)

Main Street Bar & Grille, Sheraton Park Place, 325 N. Kansas (533-8241). A new downtown clubby bar and grill done up in green plaid, dark woods, and deco touches, located in the heart of the financial district. Free buffet 4:30-7:30 weekdays, 5-11 p.m. Open 7 days 7 a.m.-1:30 a.m. No cover. Cr. (B) But not all areas.

Studebaker's, 1170 Sun Mount, west parking lot Cielo Vista Mall (778-2671). Like drinking and dancing in a museum—that is, one dedicated to the pop culture of the 1960's. Most patrons are over 30, and the place is packed with them. Mon-Sat 11-1 a.m. Free buffet till 8. Open Tues thru Thurs 5-2, Fri 4-2, Sat 6-2. Closed Sun & Mon. Cover \$1-\$2. AE, MC, V. (B) But not all areas.

TNT, 123 Turtle Cove Shopping Center, Shadow Mountain at Mesa (833-8853). Yamme-deco disco notable for being located on the far west side of town, and the longest double-decker square舞池 per capita, in the same building. Tues-Sat 5-7. Open Mon thru Sat 4-2. Closed Sun. Cover \$2. Cr. (S)

### RESTAURANTS

Casa Jardín, 226 Cincinnati (532-6429) and 4772 Douglas (833-1515). A recent find from the gleaming new chain ordering the Casa Jardín convention. Served a half-smile platter, the dinner includes an ensalada, a taco, a chile relleno, beans, rice, and chile verde con carne. Unfortunately for our diet, we also succumbed to the sinfully rich flan for dessert. Service was, as always, excellent. The food was delicious, and the price was better than what we'd gotten into Bar, Cincinnati location: Mon thru Thurs 11-8, Fri & Sat 9-8, closed Sun. Doniphon location: Tues thru Thurs 5-9, Fri & Sat 11-8, Sun noon-8. Closed Monday. Call 4772-6429 to make reservations. MC, V.

Chaplain's, 500 Executive Center Bldg (544-0721). Observing Chaplain's power breakfast potential, we found the generous serving of corned beef hash and poached eggs was as good as could be. We've also been pleased with eggs Benedict, and their fresh, rich, and meaty ham. The service is friendly and efficient, and the place provides a nice change of pace. However, the lamentable sliced fruit should have been allowed an honorable burial instead of appearing with breakfast. Service is adept and friendly; we had only to think of a second meal to realize we were getting our money's better than what we'd gotten into Bar, Cincinnati location: Tues thru Thurs 11-8, Fri & Sat 9-8, closed Sun. Doniphon location: Tues thru Thurs 5-9, Fri & Sat 11-8, Sun noon-8. Closed Monday. Call 544-0721 to make reservations. MC, V.

El Abuelo, 2349 Hermosa Escobar, Juárez (332-3887). Friends have long been after us to try the steaks at El Abuelo; we finally did, and were not disappointed. The menu is short, but the offerings of chile relleno (baked green chiles in melted cheese) and *carnitas de cerdo* (pork) are well worth the price. The chile relleno is served with a really cold slaw, and the tacos offer a variety of fillings. Old-style capsules and courteous service. Bar. Sun thru Thur 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fri & Sat 5 a.m.-1 p.m. Inexpensive. N.

El Pao Surf Club, 2500 N. Mesa (544-7873). Surf's up! The El Paso Surf Club is a group of *enfants terribles* who thought the club needed an understanding hangout, so one was opened for it in a three-converted gas station on N. Mesa. Designer hamburgers are fried outside on the patio are the forte here—the beef is very fatty, and the meat is very moist. The menu is short, but the price certainly isn't unique. The fat status of all this practically guarantees a crowd. Bar. Food service days 11-11. Inexpensive. AE, MC, V.

**UPDATE** Italian Kitchen, 2931 Parklawn (565-4041). The Italian Kitchen boasts no gaudy Venetian murals; instead, the place is almost homely. But a recent lunch order of veal scallopini demonstrated the kitchen's brief, small, this *medallions* of veal had been marinaded in lemon, pan-fried, and served in a mildy tart Maderita wine with a few sautéed mushrooms. The meat was very tender meat. We were ion exasperated by the veal to give proper attention to an order of lasagna except to note that the sauce was delightfully restrained in its overcookedness, and there was an abundance of meat. The meat was very tender. Sun 10-2:30 & 5-10. Closed Sun. Inexpensive to moderate. AE, MC, V.

**UPDATE** Pao del Norte, 3650 Hermosa Escobar, Juárez (332-3403). A recent visit was the first time we've ever returned, and chose at this point to do so again. The food is very good, and the portions are large. We used a little less salsa and a lot more leek flavor, "consomé" (chicken broth with serrano chiles, cilantro, onion, and avocado) was now our favorite. *Lengua en mole* (salted tongue) had a rubbery texture but the mole itself was delicious. The pescado (fish) was overcooked, though. *Pescado a la bndera* was compromised; instead of the promised tricolor "striped" sauce, only the (very good) green

tomatillochile sauce appeared. Dessert—fan with a rich, almost Jätsberg cheese-like texture—made eloquent apologies for its antecedents, and capable servers did as good a job as ever. Bar. Open 7 days 11-11 (El Paso time), inexpensive to moderate. MC, V. (B)

Rio Grande Cafe, 1135 Airway (778-9696). Jason's new little sis, here to bring the Rio Grande's name and style to the area and honor the restaurant's tradition. The food is especially noteworthy; plenty of sweet crabmeat and whitefish chunks in a delicately herbed vinaigrette served in a fried flour tortilla bowl with a light dill-mayonnaise dressing. The special chicken sandwich is a good one, though. Imposing convention-hall proportions and acoustics made it a little distracting, but service is cheerful, helpful, and quick. Bar. Sun 11-10, Fri & Sat 11-1. MC, V. (S)

Uncle Bao's, 9515 Gateway W. Blvd (592-1101). The large Buddha in the lobby has obviously had its effect, for Uncle Bao's is as serene and accessible as ever despite the dinning room of 100+ under the same roof. The food is good, though. The chicken was nicely flavored, while the Mandarin chicken was pungent with orange zest and Szechuan peppers—the more which the merrier. Ants Climbs A Tree mini-cupcakes (in hot pepper oil with chocolate frosting) were a hit. The service is fine, though, lingering after hours are roundabout. Bar. The service is fine, though, lingering after hours are roundabout. Bar. Mon thru Sat 11:30-11, Sun 11-9. Cr. (B)

Wolfe's, 131 N. Campbell St (534-2513). The choice at this cheery downtown eatery between a light lunch and a full blue plate special was the "cheeseburger with bacon." It's a good sandwich, which is to have plenty of meat and bacon (resulting in a bit more draining) and was delicious. A hefty side of good mustardy potato salad went along well, and the ice cream smothered in *caramel* (Mexican goat's milk caramel) threatened our waistline with润足. Mon thru Fri 6:30-8:30 p.m. Closed Sat & Sun. Inexpensive. AE, MC, V.

### This Month

#### Small, new, or offbeat places to try

Wynge, Tigua Indian Reservation, 122 S. Old Pueblo Rd (856-1033). Tigua traditions are so embedded in local Mexican culture that even the chief knows of no exclusive Tigua culinary heritage. The best of the blend is served up here, in a pretty, new restaurant. *Calabacitas con carne* (calabacitas with a meat filling) on the menu as "tamales" has something not. "Ours was medium-spicy, full of green chiles and jalapeños. The Tiguas claim to do the only "fajitas" in town, a sweeping statement bolstered by the quality of the dish. Chicken was good, though they were strictly *beef* fajitas. Very friendly. We were given a choice of the standard intermittent "yankee go home" attitude of yore. Bar. Wed thru Sat 5-10, Sun 9-8. Closed Mon & Tue. Inexpensive to moderate. Cr. (B) But not all areas.

### FORT WORTH

Send general entertainment listings to:  
Eugenia Trinkle, Box 30776, Fort Worth 76129

### THEATER

Resident

Casa Mañana Playhouse, 3101 W. Lancaster at University (332-6222). Fri at 7:30, Sat at 2, 4:45, 7:30. (Call ahead. Closed Dec 13 thru Jan 20: Twas the Night Before Christmas (for children).

Circle Theatre, 3460 Bluebonnet Circle off S. University (921-3040). Thur thru Sat at 8:15, Sun at 1:35, 5:30 & 9. (S)

DEC 5 THRU JAN 3: A holiday melodrama and sing-along.

Stage West, #21 W. Vickery (332-6228). Wed thru Fri at 8:15, Sat at 5 & 8 p.m. Dinner available Wed thru Sat 90 minutes before show. (S)

THRU DEC 26: Season's Greetings—comedy by Alan Aykoubian.

### MUSIC

Classical

DEC 6 & 7: Fort Worth Symphony, Convention Center Theatre, 1111 Houston (926-8813). Britten: Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes. Ginastera: Concerto No 2 for Cello. Berio: Symphonie Pastorale. Aurora-Natalia Ginastera, cello. Sat at 8, Sun at 3. (S)

DEC 8: Schola Cantorum, St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, 2600 Sandage (737-5788). Christmas concert. At 7:30. Free. (S)

DEC 9 THRU 14: Texas Boys Choir, Scott Theatre, 35050 W. Lancaster at Montgomery (335-5417). The Littlest Wise Man. Tue thru Sat at 8, Sun at 2. Sun also at 3. Free. Call for reservations. (S) Call ahead.

DEC 15: Carols by Candlelight, TCU Robert Carr Chapel, University Dr at Princeton (1010-1010). At 10:30 p.m. Free, but come early to get a seat. (S)

#### Pop, Rock, Jazz, Etc.

Caravan of Dreams. (See Nightlife.)

Holiday High Country Music Revue, Will Rogers Auditorium, 3300 W. Lancaster (481-4518). Every Sat at 7. \$5 & \$6. (S)

### DANCE

DEC 14: Fort Worth Ballet, Kimbell Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie (464-2027). Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker (selections). At 2. Free. (S)

DEC 15 THRU JAN 21: Fort Worth Ballet, Convention Center Theatre, 1111 Houston (738-6509). Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker (orchestration by Nemanja Glushak and Michel Rahn). Thur thru Sat at 8, Sun at 2. \$3-\$24. (S)

### EVENTS

Candlelight Christmas in Ryan Place (no phone). Tours of early



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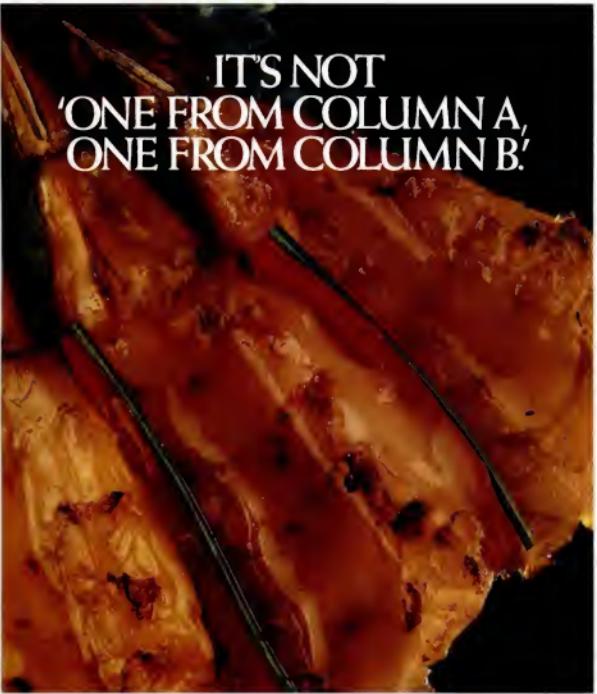


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## FORT WORTH

20th-century homes at 1001 Elizabeth Blvd., 2741 6th Ave., 2800 6th Ave., 2311 Ryan Place Dr., 2420 S. Adams. Tours run continuously; you may start at any house and then ride the trolleys and horse-drawn carriages to the others. Dec 5-11, Sun 9-5. Fri 6-10, Sat 8-10, Sun 8-5. Free. ☺

Holiday in the Park, Six Flags Over Texas, IH 30 & Texas Hwy 360 (650-264-2100). Circus shows and demonstrations. Thru Dec 31. Open Fri thru Sun, then Dec 11, open daily Dec 12 thru Jan 3 (except closed Dec 24 & 25). Open at 4; call for closing times. Gen adm \$4.50, under 2 free. ☺

## MUSEUMS

Fielder Museum, 1616 W. Abram, Arlington (460-4001). Once the showplace of Arlington, this former residence now houses historical exhibits and arts and crafts classes. Tue thru Fri 9:30-4, Sun 1:30-4:30. Free. ☺

Log Cabin Village, University Dr. & Colonial Pkwy (926-5846). Reenactments, square dancing, and candlelighting and guided tours of structures that were built between 1848 and 1853. Mon thru Fri 8-4:30, Sat noon-4:30, Sun 1-4:30. Gen adm \$1, children 35¢.

Museum of Science and History, 1501 Montgomery (732-1631 or metro 654-1356). Medicine, geology, Texas history, Man and His Pastories, hands-on exhibits, and interactive computer and laser technology and amateur astronomers here. Thu 10-4. Wolves in Hi-mane: multimedia, "hands-on" simulations and presentations on human attitudes about wolves since prehistoric times. Thu Nov 30 in the Noble Planetarium. The Grand Tour, shows Sat at 1, 2 & 3; Sun at 1, 2 & 3. 4, 5 & 6 (5:30). Sat at 1, 2 & 3, 7 & 8 (8:30); Sun at 7:15 (8:15). Little Magician Fri at 8 (1, 9, 10), 10:45 & midnight; Sat at 7, 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 & midnight (8). In the Omni Theatre: *The Dream's Alive*—views of earth from three space shuttles. *Also We Are*—views of man (in 3D). Tue thru Fri 1, 2, 3 & 4 PM, Sat 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 & 8. Sun 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 & 8 (gen adm \$4.75, children & senior citizens \$3). Museum open Tue thru Thur 9-5, Fri & Sat 9-8:30, Sun noon-5. Free. ☺

## ART INSTITUTIONS

Annon Carter Museum, 1501 Camp Bowie (738-1933). The museum is famous for its collection of works by Frederic Remington and Charles Russell. Thru Dec 4: *New Landscapes*—photographs by Frederic Remington, Charles Russell, and others. McFarland and Michael Smith. Thru Jan 4: *Treasures from the National Museum of American Art*—80 works including paintings by Benjamin West and Gilbert Stuart, 20th-century pieces by Helen Frankenthaler and Edward Hopper, sculpture by Hiram Powers, Ansel Adams' *Sierra Nevada*, and a painting of the Georgia O'Keeffe oil, *Cottonwood Tree in the Spring*. Free interpreted tours for the deaf; call 738-6811 two weeks in advance or teletype 232-2892. Tue thru Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5:30. Free. ☺

Fort Worth Art Museum, W. Lancaster at Montgomery (738-9215). Thru Dec 30: *Art Prints* from the collections of the Museum of Modern Art—90 prints from posters and book illustrations. Thru Jan 4: *Melissa Miller: A Survey* 1978-1986—brightly colored narrative paintings of bears, leopards, tigers, wolves, and other beasts. Call 738-6811 to arrange gallery tours for 12 or more people. Tue 10-9, Wed thru Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5. Free. ☺

Kimbell Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie (322-8451). Louis Kahn's magnificent building houses pre-Columbian to 20th-century European art. Thru Dec 7: *Giovanni Maria Crespi and the Emergence of Genre Painting in Italy*—50 works on loan from Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. Thru Dec 20: *the 18 Japanese Paintings of the Edo Period*—scrolls and screens by Kyoto artists and those of the Shijo School. Call about films, lectures, and workshops. Tue thru Sat 10-5, Sun 11-5. Free. ☺

Sid Richardson Collection of Western Art, Sundance Square, 309 Main St (322-6554). Fifty-two paintings by Frederic Remington and Charles Russell. Tue thru Fri 10-5, Sat 11-6, Sun 1-5. Free. ☺

## OUTDOORS

Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, two miles past Lake Worth Bridge on Texas Hwy 199 (237-1111). The 3400 acres include several hiking and riding trails as well as homes for buffalo and prairie dogs. Center open Mon thru Fri 8-5, Sat 8-5, Sun 9-3. ☺ Call ahead.

Fort Worth Zoo, University & Colonial Pkwy (730-7050). The herpetarium houses one of the world's largest collections of reptiles and amphibians. Elephant-hippo complex, the zoo's largest houses one of only 12 male breeding Asian elephants in the U.S. and Canada. Don't miss new walk-through bird exhibit. See infant orangutan and the 1000-year-old giant tortoise. Open 9-5. Sun 9-3. Mon thru Sat 9-5, Sun 9-3:30. Gen adm \$2, teens \$1.50, children 25¢, under 3 free. Educational institution groups free on weekdays. ☺

## POINTS OF INTEREST

Botanic Garden, University & W. Hwy (870-7666). More than 100 acres of formal rose gardens and fountains give way to natural wooded areas, the Japanese Garden (51), perennial, experimental, and fragrance gardens. Grounds open 7 days 8:30-2:30. Free. ☺

Fort Worth Water Gardens, 4.5 city blocks between Houston & Commerce south of Convention Center Theatre (no phone). Waterfalls, recirculating water effects, and maze-like walkways designed by Philip Johnson give a feel of walking inside a fountain. Open 7 days 24 hours.

Forest Park, N. Main at Franklin St., northeast of the Court-house downtown (no phone). Wet walls, walkways, observation points, and resting spots enhance the site of the original army post that became Fort Worth. Bicycle and nature trails connect with Forest Park's. Open 7 days 24 hours. ☺

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## FORT WORTH

Stockyards National Historic District, N. Main & Exchange Ave (no phone), but North Fort Worth Historical Society offers information at 625-5040, weekdays 9-5:30. The Stockyards grew up after the railroads came to town, so you can stop by the historic homes of country music headliners like Steve Wariner (Dec 5), Earl Thomas Conley (Dec 6), David Allan Cox (Dec 13), and Louise Mandrell (Dec 20). Open Mon thru Sat 9:30 a.m. (for bingo, then tours and shopping) to 2 p.m.; Sun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Christmas Eve. Cover charge, \$3-\$12.50, depending on big names. Cr. V.

Camp Bowie Country Club, 4615 Bryce Ave (737-5227). The new age-21 drinking law has trimmed the size of the hordes at this west side party place, but there's boozing aplenty in Dec to groove like the Hone Bros. Reunion and River City. Open Tue thru Sun 6-2, Sun 6-10 p.m., except Christmas Eve. Cover \$2-\$5 for live music. Cr. V. © Rear entrance.

Caravan of Dreams, 312 Houston (877-3000). You want spitfire? Try a catch garden cocktail bar on the roof, theater on the second floor, and down below a jazz lounge, which will feature the swingin' swingin' band Red & the Heat. In late Dec, Rockin' boy band 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and places are hopping all winter—featuring hot drinks. Club open Wed thru Fri 5-2, Sat 7-2, Sun 6-midnight or later. Closed Mon & Tue. Open Christmas Eve and Christmas night. Cover. AE, MC, V. ©

Feathers Green Oaks Inn, 6901 West Hwy (737-7311). A convivial atmosphere—30 years of service! The dance floor is usually crowded on the far west edge of Fort Worth. Music is varied, but always danceable, and DJ requests (even under 30-patr) lean toward oldies. Substantial gratis cocktail hour buffet 4:30-7. Open Mon thru Fri 4-2, Sat noon-2. Closed Sun. Cr. © Via telephone.

Pig and Whistle, 5713 Locks (731-4938). Management, decor, and beer menu are strictly British, but they're this lively joint and its sister pub, the Hare 'N' Hounds (4400 White Settlement Rd.), cater to Texans and Brits alike. Musical fare also is a cultural blend. Dance to topless girls on Dec 6 & 27, when the Inferno Reggae band plays 7:45-10, when the first two rock bands perform. Open 7 days 2-2. Open Christmas Eve. No cover. Cr.

White Elephant Saloon, 106 E. Exchange (624-1887). Popular but never thirsty, this Stockyards mainstay is Western to the core. Country veteran Foggy Tilden performs his C&W retrospective 6-6. And the band is back on Dec. Edwars'ers are back for 11 years as a White Elephant favorite. Cabinet shows upstairs. Open Mon thru Sat 11-2, Sun 11-midnight. Closes at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve. Cover in saloon averages \$2. AE, MC, V.

## RESTAURANTS

Angelo's, 2533 White Settlement (332-0357). We looked for something new at Angelo's but found the same packed parking lot, the same long waiting line guarded by the same unexpressive staffed hostess. The food is the same—steaks, chops, ribs, and beans—same overcooked cornmeat and waitresses, the same earthen embossing noise, the same tacky surroundings, and the same deli-cious meat loaf, brisket sandwiches, pork ribs (after 5), and cold draft beer that's not quite cold enough. Beer. Mon thru Sat 11-10. Closed Sun. Inexpensive. Cr. © Elevator.

The Balcony, 6100 Camp Bowie (731-3719). The comfortable atmosphere with live piano and the friendly, polished service bring in the loyalists. The varied menu offers some French selections—steamed veal nephritis, filet mignon with a jumbo mushroom bearnaise, and seafood—filet of salmon au poivre; and some beef—a small tenderloin or chateaubriand for two. The exceptional house salad has a variety of fresh lettuce topped with other vegetables and vinaigrette. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2. Dinner Mon thru Fri 6-10 p.m.; Sat 6-10; Sun 11-10. Closed Sun. Moderate to expensive. Cr. © Elevator.

Bella Italia, 2913 Walton (294-7979). Some of the best spaghetti with meatballs, lasagna, and linguini carbonara are indeed served here. But there is more. Creamy of white bean soup, quail sautéed in white wine, and a variety of pizzas. The thin-crust pizzas are a specialty as is pickled trout fillets in cognac and medallions of venison are typical of the cooking creativity you can expect to find. The broad-based wine list, the comfortable, candle-lit decor, and the friendly, attentive players are nice touches. Bar. Lunch Tue thru Fri 11:30-2:30. Dinner Tue thru Fri 6-10, Fri & Sat 11. Closed Sun & Mon. Moderate. Cr. ©

Cacharel, 2221 E. Lamar Blvd., Arlington (640-9981). The name means a little wild duck, fitting for the charming country French dining room that is the latest effort of Jean-Claude Proust, formerly of Le Chateau. The menu includes such specialties as coq au beurre. In the glass-enclosed kitchen, you can observe chef Bergmann at work on the day's menu. Cold avocado soup, mixed greens with goat cheese, or scallop mousse in puff pastry might compose the appetizer. Grilled snapper with mango-cilantro sauce, veal with dill cream, and grilled beef with wild mushrooms may make up the entrees. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2. Dinner Mon thru Sat 6-11. Closed Sun. Moderate. prix fixe \$10 lunch, \$22 dinner. Cr. ©

**UPDATER** Carrasco's, 1133 Cleburne Rd (923-1007). This "one-stop-style" deli, a longtime lunch haunt for south siders, now offers on Saturdays and Sundays such early-bird temptations as Spanish omelets and French toast. Late-comers make do with good hot pastries—sandwiches or corned beef eye (with potato salad) or a variety of salads, soups, and breads. The house specialty is a giant green bean casserole selected by the chef. The place was founded by Dennis Swift. Tue thru Sat 9-6, Sun till 3. Closed Mon. Inexpensive. N.

Joe T. Garcia's, 2201 N. Commerce (632-4356). Some things change, some stay the same. An addition to the restaurant, rooming around 25—while others move on—the traditional Mexican cuisine served family-style (with tortillas con salsa, cheese nachos, tacos,



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tamales, enchiladas with chili, refried beans, rice, and tortillas). Long lines of addicts from all over the Metropolis willingly wait to lap it all up. Bar. Mon thru Fri 11-2:30 & 5-10:30, Sat 11-11-11-10. Moderate. MC, V. ☺

**BBQ** Le Chardonnay, 2443 Forest Park (926-5622). In the daylight the terraces, courtyard, and trees provide expansive views after dark the candlelight can easily charm the eye. This French bistro serves daily special bouillabaisse with soup or salad you might get an entrée of grilled liver or luna. Evenings are more exotic. They may come from sautéed escargot (snails) with garlic and butter sauce, or from a shrimp creole—all prepared with care and served à la carte. Bar. Mon thru Fri 11-30-10:30, Sat 4-10:30, Sun 11-10:30. Moderate. MC, V. ☺

**BBQ** ★ Michel, 3851 Camp Bowie (732-1231). In the evenings there's wall-to-wall room with gleaming woodwork and antique furniture, dimly lit corners where one seldom strays from the classics, shunning fads like Southwestern cuisine altogether. We had a couple of problems with openers on the five-course set menu, namely a lobster bisque that was only faintly flavored and a dish of lobsters in a light cream sauce. On the other hand, the grilled salmon in herb butter and the sautéed filet mignon of beef were excellent, as was the very filling and pink pomegranate tarte. Caviar, wine & liquor. Mon thru Fri 11-30-2. Dinner Thu thru Sat 6-10. Closed Sun & Mon. Reservations recommended. Very expensive, prix fixe \$38.50. AE, MC, V. ☺ Call ahead.

**BBQ** ★ Redeflections, Throckmorton & Main (870-0984). Sleekly styled and manned by an army of servers, this deco dining room lacks only local patrons to make a go of it. The latest change of chefs may remedy that. Our gazpacho was jazzed up with fresh jalapeños and cilantro, while the filet mignon was perfectly seared and perfectly done. Soufflé, sautéed and served with crabmeat in *beurre blanc*, had a vegetable garnish in a riot of colors. The house Chardonnay, from Monticello Cellars, is quite good and Texas wines are also available. Bar. Mon thru Sat 6-10. Closed Sun. Expensive. Cr. ☺

Saint-Emilien, 3617 W. 7th (737-2781). Reservations are must for this diminutive, country-French restaurant. Appetizers from chef Jean-Claude Rousset recently included a rich, intense lobster bisque and a warm terrine of salmon and shrimp. The house specialty is a well-prepared filet mignon dressed with a mustard and topped with walnuts and bacon—preceded such entries as a marvelous lamb combination (chop, brochette, and spicy sausage) and veal scallopini with lemons and watercress. Espresso & a French press coffee are standard. The entrees will have a calorie counter superimposed and wrapped with gauze. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-30-2. Dinner Mon thru Sat 6-10. Closed Sun. Moderate to expensive. AE, MC, V. ☺

Tours, 3429 N. W., 7th (870-1772). Note that David Alexander has been doing his father's cooking in the kitchen a little more often than mother Julie, but creativity and technique remain the same.

Country pad is a nice beginning, then the house salad, then agonizing choices among cited avocado and popcorn shrimp with basil mayonnaise, grilled salmon, shrimp cocktail, or a choice of grilled veal liver with mustard sauce; house fettuccine; or New York strip steak with ranchero sauce. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-30-2. Dinner Tue thru Sat 6-10. Closed Sun. Moderate to expensive. Cr. ☺

## GALVESTON

Send general entertainment listings to:  
Around the State, 6828 Driftwood, Galveston 77551

## THEATER

Resident

Upper Deck Theatre, 5001 Ave U (744-9661). Thur thru Sat at 8:15. Sun at 2:15. \$8. ☺

DEC 4 THRU 14: A Christmas with O. Henry—The Gift of the Magi; The Cox and the Anthem.

1894 Grand Opera House, 2020 Postoffice (765-1894; Houston phone 480-1894). At 8, \$12-\$21. ☺

DEC 5: A Christmas Carol.

## DANCE

DEC 13 & 14: City Ballet of Houston, 1894 Grand Opera House, 2020 Postoffice (765-1894; Houston phone 480-1894). Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker. Sat at 7:30, Sun at 2, \$7-\$12. ☺

## EVENTS

Dickens on the Strand, Strand Historical District, 20th thru 25th Dec (765-8334; Houston phone 485-5926). Fifteen days of Dickens on the Strand, Dickens on the Strand, Victorian London with food, street performers, costumed visitors, and crafts. Gen admissions \$3; children & senior citizens \$2; children under 6 free. Dec 6 & 7. Sat 10-10, Sun 10-8. ☺ Variable.

## OUTDOORS

Galveston Island State Park, FM 3005 at 13 Mile Rd (737-1222). Nature trails and observation towers all over 200 acres of Galveston island. Activities are performed in Victorian London with food, street performers, costumed visitors, and crafts. Gen admissions \$3; children & senior citizens \$2; children under 6 free. Dec 6 & 7. Sat 10-10, Sun 10-8. ☺ Variable.

Seawolf Park, Pelican Island, via 51st St drawbridge (744-5738). Excellent bird-watching and whale-watching also barbecue, playground, picnic tables, volleyball, and a self-guided tour of historic submarine, and jet fighter. Bait shop. Open 7 days 9 til dark. Parking \$3, fishing \$2. Grounds ☺

## POINTS OF INTEREST

Ashton Villa, 2328 Broadway (762-3933). Three-story 1859 man-



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## GALVESTON

sion filled with 19th-century antiques and memories of Galveston's golden era. Guided tours and slide show on 1900 hurricane. Mon-Sun, Fri 10-5, Sat & Sun noon-5. Gen adm \$3, senior citizens \$2.50, children \$2.

**Bishop's Palace,** 1402 Broadway (762-3475). Built in 1887, the magnificent former home of Walter Gresham is open for guided tours. Tue thru Sun 1-5. \$2.50.

**Colonel Paddle Wheeler,** Pier 22 (763-9400). Daytime, dinner, and moonlight cruises plus narrated tours of the Galveston waterfront. Call 763-9400 for dinner reservations. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-6. \$24. **Galveston County Historical Museum,** 2219 Market (766-2340). Rotating and permanent exhibits of early Galveston County commerce and architecture are housed in this restored building. Mon thru Sat 9-4. Free.

**Galveston Flyer Tramway,** 21st & Strand (763-0884). Hour-long round trip of historic Galveston aboard a rubber-tired tram that stops at most historic attractions. Operates 7 days 10-5. Gen adm \$4, senior citizens \$3.50, children 3 (tickets good all day).

**Railroad Museum,** 25th & Strand (765-5700). Largest collection of restored rail cars in the Southwest. Sound and light shows and interactive exhibits. Early 20th-century dining room also offered. Open 7 days 10-5. Gen adm \$4, senior \$2.50.

**1839 Williams Home,** 3601 Bernardo de Galvez (765-1839). Faithfully restored, this home of Galveston founder Samuel May Williams is one of the city's oldest structures. Tours Mon thru Sat 10-4, Sun noon-4. Gen adm \$2.50, children \$2.

## NIGHTLIFE

**B. Jigger's,** 5002 Seawall (740-3581). A quiet and comfortable people lounge after-work hours of conversation and relaxation. B. Jigger's is also a great place to have a drink or two. Mon thru Sat noon-2, Sun noon-midnight. No cover. Cr. (2)

**Galvez Lounge,** Galvez Marriott, 2024 Seawall (765-7721). Rock 'n' roll for the soon-to-be-hearing-impaired singles crowd, set in a tropical atmosphere with the beach front. Mon thru Sat noon-2, Sun noon-10. AE, MC, V. (2)

**Hemingway's,** 5400 Seawall Blvd (766-5000). Tropical atmosphere yields to stereo football, with buffets, and contests on Monday nights. Live music weekends. Mon thru Sat 4-2, Sun noon-2. No cover. Cr. (2)

## RESTAURANTS

**UPDATE** **Benno's,** 1209 Seawall (762-4621). The beach may be out of season, but Benno keeps the heat on with spicy Cajun cooking. 100% paper-tablecloth kind of place where you forget about your Post and napkin sleeves. As for pea-peel soft-shelled crabs or pepper fried oysters done up Louisiana-style. Shrimp, oyster, or fish po'boys are hefty stand-by's, and the gumbo and crawfish, with a bit of cajun kick, are delicious. Beer & wine. Mon-Sun Thru 11-10, Fri & Sat til 11. Inexpensive to moderate. MC, V. (2)

**UPDATE** **Cocoons,** 2224 Seawall (744-7179). Serving soups, sandwiches, salads, and more in a waterfront setting. Cocoons is a casual but elegant Tex-Mex restaurant that offers more-than-you-can-eat chicken-fried steak, quesadillas, and seafood. Specialties are big, fluffy fried shrimp and redfish. You can also fill up on appetizers like fried cheese and potato skins and wings. Bar til 2. Open 7 days 11-midnight. Moderate. Cr. (2)

**Fuller's Waterwall,** 2110 Strand (765-7875). The Waterwall's quarter-pound of beef, seared on a grill and then embellished with mushrooms, cheese, chili, or guacamole, deserves praise. The restaurant is in a converted oil derrick, complete with swinging over a rustic stone wall. Umbrella tables on the historic Strand contribute to the atmosphere, and side dishes like soup, fries, and fried vegetables add variety to the menu. Beer & wine. Mon-Sun 11-9, Sun noon-9. Moderate. Inexpensive. AE, MC, V. (2)

**Gaido's,** 19th & Seawall (762-9625). The chill of fall brings oysters—on the half shell, plump and fresh—back to Gaido's. For a main course, grilled oysters or shrimp are favorites (the specialty is grits), but be sure to try the fish—the day each offers something a little different from the Gulf Bar. Mon-Sun Fri 11:30-10, Sun noon-11, Sun noon-9.30. Moderate to expensive. AE, MC, V. (2)

**Hill's Pier,** 19th & Wharf (763-7087). Poorboys and fries, grilled shrimp, and pasta are the specialties at this casual eat at the waterfront, each spot with a perfect view of the bay, pier, and port. Chilled shrimp and crab claws are fresh off the boat, and you can enjoy them from a crow's nest perch outdoors, three stories high. Beer & domestic and imported beer. Open 7 days 11-9. Moderate. Cr. (2)

**Hanna,** 4918 Seawall (765-9595). Our favorite cookie said we would discover something of great pleasure. Indeed we did: spareribs doused in sweet-and-sour sauce, sliced beef with snow peas, crisp shrimp, and remarkably spicy green beans. The fried and soft rolls are food-attested by the Hanna family. But the forewarning: even the hyper-tasty ribs may be taken down by the hot sauce. Beer. Mon thru Thur 11:30-10:30, Fri 11:30-11:30, Sun noon-11:30, Sun noon-10:30. Moderate. Cr. (2)

**Rollo's,** 2410 Strand (762-7758). At Rollo's you'll want to try everything, and you should. Take about five friends and swap marinades, and you'll be in heaven. The menu is a smorgasbord, any of the pasta salads, and some of the potato salads. When you leave, pick up one of the big fudgy brownies at the check-out counter—it's enough for all of you. Beer & wine. Mon thru Fri 10:30-10:30, Sat 10-10:30, Sun noon-9. Moderate. MC, V. (2)

**The Westertrap,** 2301 Strand (765-5545). A charming and quiet retreat, the Westertrap is an elegant restaurant in a restored Victorian building. The memorable specialty flower is a delicate combination of crabmeat and flowers. Many menu items are prepared à la minute. We've omitted one of life's essentials if we don't order the crab bisque; it's light and creamy with a touch ofしゃり. Jumbo dinner. Bar. Mon thru Sat 11:30-2:30 & 6-11, Sun noon-3. Reservations suggested. Expensive. Cr. (2)

**The Wicker Trap,** 2301 Strand (765-5545). A charming and quiet retreat, the Westertrap is an elegant restaurant in a restored Victorian building. The memorable specialty flower is a delicate combination of crabmeat and flowers. Many menu items are prepared à la minute. We've omitted one of life's essentials if we don't order the crab bisque; it's light and creamy with a touch ofしゃり. Jumbo dinner. Bar. Mon thru Sat 11:30-2:30 & 6-11, Sun noon-3. Reservations suggested. Expensive. Cr. (2)

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Send general and art listings to:

Jean May, 2515 Rehbaud, Houston 77005

Send museum listings to:

Debbie Blanton, 3635 Glen Haven, Houston 77025

Send nightclub listings to:

Kathy Biehl, 909 Kipling, Houston 77006

## THEATER

### Resident

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas (228-8421). Tue thru Fri at 8, Sat at 4 & 9, Sun at 2:30 & 7:30. \$10-\$26. **Call ahead.**

THRU JAN 4: *The Weil's*—Sir Arthur Wing Pinero's backstage comedy (Large Stage).

DEC 11 THRU JAN 18: *The Marriage of Bette and Boo—Christmas Durang's* satire of the Bellmores, and others (Avery Stage); preview Dec 6, 7, 9 & 10.

DURING DEC: *A Christmas Memory* (at 12:15 in the Penthouse Theatre; call for schedule).

Chocolate Bayou Theater Company, St. Regis Theatre, 4205 San Felipe (529-0119). Thur thru Sat at 8, Sun at 5. \$10-\$13; discounted \$8. **Call ahead.**

DEC 4 THRU 21: *Kringle's Window*—holiday play by Mark Medoff.

Comedy Workshop Cabaret and Comix Annex, 2104 San Felipe at S. Shepherd (524-7333). Cabaret: Tue thru Sat at 8:30, Fri & Sat also at 11 (\$4.50-\$6.50). Reservations necessary. Comedy Annex: Thur at 8:30, Fri at 9:30, Sat at 8:30, Fri also at 10:45; Sat at 7:30, 9:45 & midnight (\$3.50-\$6.50). **Call ahead.**

DURING DEC: *Buy New and Pray Later*—a seasonal revue.

DEC 9: ninth anniversary party.

The Ensemble, 3535 S. Main at Berry (520-0055). Thur at 8, Fri & Sat at 8:30, Sun at 5. \$7-\$8.50. **Call ahead.**

THUR DEC 14: *Hercules*—drama of a big lady by Karen Jones-Meadows (Arena Stage).

Main Street Theater, 2540 Times Blvd (524-6706). Thur at 8 (\$10.50), Fri & Sat at 8 (\$12.50), Sun at 4 (\$8.50); discounts available.

DEC 4 THRU 21: *Christians Times*—a new holiday musical about Houston by Max Pearson and Philip Charlton.

DEC 20 THRU FEB 8: *The Dragon's Tale*—a new musical (Children's Theater; Sat & Sun at 2; \$4).

Music Hall, 810 Bagby (622-8887). Tue thru Sat at 8, Sun at 2, Dec 21 & 28 also at 7:30. \$9-\$20. **Call ahead.**

DEC 21 THRU 23 & 25 THRU 27: *Peter Pan*—musical stars Cindy Rich and Michael J. Pollard directed by Theatre Under the Stars (previews Dec 13 & 14, 16 & 17).

Radio Music Theatre, 1840 Westheimer (522-7722). Thur & Fri at 8:30, Sat at 8:30 & 10:50. **\$7.**

THRU JAN 3: *Invasion of the Blubber Snackers*.

DEC 11: *Neverland's Eve*—a production (call for times & prices).

Stages 320, Allen Key (527-8243). Thur thru Sat at 8, Sun at 5. \$12 & \$15. **Call ahead.**

THUR DEC 21: rotating weekly repertory of *The Memorandum* by Vaclav Havel (thru Dec 14) and *The Madwoman of Chaillot* by Jean Cocteau (call for schedule).

DEC 4 THRU 21: *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Early Stages; Thur & Fri at 10:30, Sat & Sun at 1:30; \$6).

DEC 4 THRU 28: *Leader of the Pack* (previews Dec 2 & 3).

OPEN RUN: *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You*—by Christopher Durang (Sat at 11, Sun at 8; \$8).

## MUSIC Classical

DEC 2 & 3: Houston Grand Opera, Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana (227-2717). *Offenbach: Orpheus in the Underworld*. John DeMain, conductor. At 7:30. \$10-\$75. **Call ahead.**

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- DEC 3: Colorado String Quartet, Hamman Hall, Rice University, entrance 9 off Rice Blvd (527-4933). At 8. Gen adm \$12; discounts available.
- DEC 5: Houston Grand Opera (see Dec 2 details). At 8.
- DEC 5: Texas Chamber Orchestra, St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, River Oaks Blvd at Westheimer (529-5744). Works by Villa-Lobos, Dvorak, Gershwin and Copland. At 8. Gen adm \$12.50; discounts available.
- DEC 6: Singing Boys of Houston, First Presbyterian Church, 3300 S. Main (222-3817). Traditional holiday music. Grey Patten, director. At 7:30. Free.
- DEC 6: Houston Baroque Ensemble, Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2300 Rice Blvd at Greenway (665-5817). Music of Beethoven, Antonio Vivaldi and others. At 8. \$6.
- DEC 6 THRU 8: Houston Symphony, Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana (227-2787). Bieg: Fanfare; Dvorak: Oboello Overture; also Concerto for Violin. Brahms: Symphony No. 2; Miriam Fried, violin. Gerd Albrecht, conductor. Sat & Mon at 8; Sun at 2:30 (lectures 50 min before each performance). \$6-\$25; \$3-\$15 all seats.
- DEC 6: Choral Chorale of Houston, First Presbyterian Church, 5300 S. Main (227-2787). Bach: Magnificat. Repubblica: Land to the Nativity, Allo, popular Christmas songs. At 8. Gen adm \$10; discounts available.

- DEC 9: Messiah Sing-Along, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 S. Main (527-4933). At 8. Free.
- DEC 18 THRU 20: Houston Symphony and Chorus, various locations (227-2787). Handel: Messiah; Palestrina, soprano, Charles Neidich, bass-baritone; Murray Hidman, tenor; Stephen Roberts, baritone; Richard Hickox, conductor. At 8. Call for prices.
- DEC 18: Metropole Baptist Church, 13000 Jones Jones Rd
- DEC 19: Grace Presbyterian Church, 10211 Ella Lee Rd
- Holiday Youth Fest, Cullinan Hall, Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet (526-1361). Children's groups perform. Dec 12 at noon, Dec 13 at 3. Dec 13 at 1:30 & 3:30; Dec 17 at noon, Dec 18 at noon & 7. Free.

**Pop, Rock, Jazz, Etc.**

- DEC 3: Lionel Richie, the Summit, Greenwich Plaza (627-9452). Call for time & prices.
- DEC 7: Peter Gabriel, the Summit, Greenwich Plaza (627-9452). Call for time & prices.
- DEC 9: Journey, the Summit, Greenwich Plaza (627-9452). Call for time & prices.
- DEC 10: Houston Pops and the Fifth Dimension, Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana (227-2787). Ned Nastasia, conductor. At 8:30. \$5-\$22. Call ahead.

**DANCE**

- DEC 13 & 14: Joan Kirner's New Dance Group, St. John's School Theater, 3300 Westheimer (721-2316). Featuring new music by Peter Erik Johansson, Newton Strangberg, Ray Travis, and Arthur Wicksell. At 8. \$15.
- DEC 16 THRU 23 AND 26 THRU 30: Houston Ballet, Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana (227-2787). Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker (choreography by Ben Stevenson). At 2:30 & 7:30. \$7-\$31. Call ahead.

**SPORTS****Basketball**

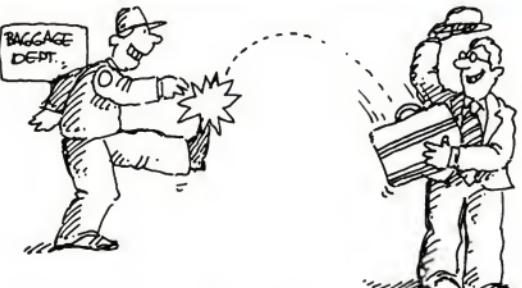
- Houston Rockets, the Summit, Greenwich Plaza (627-0400). Dec 4: Atlanta Hawks. Dec 6: Seattle SuperSonics. Dec 11: Golden State Warriors. Dec 13: Sacramento Kings. Dec 16: Phoenix Suns. Dec 21 at 7: Los Angeles Lakers. Dec 23 at 7: Los Angeles Clippers. Dec 23 unless indicated. \$9-\$51-\$100.
- Kris Uniforms, Atury Court, University Blvd at Stockton (527-4668). Dec 1: University of the Pacific. Dec 5: Rice Invitational: Rice vs UT San Antonio (at 7); Texas Southern vs North Eastern (Louisiana) State (at 9). Dec 6: Rice Invitational: Rice vs Texas Southern (at 7); North Eastern (Louisiana) State (at 9). Dec 9: Rice. Dec 12: University of Houston. Dec 13: University of North Louisiana. Dec 30: Southwestern (Kansas). At 7:35 unless indicated otherwise. Call for prices.
- University of Houston, Hofheinz Pavilion, entrance 16 off Cullen (740-7366). Dec 1: University of Minnesota. Dec 13: University of New Orleans. At 7:35. \$8-\$30.

**Football**

- Bluebonne Bowl, Rice Stadium, University Blvd at Stockton (977-3333). Teams to be announced. Dec 31 at 2:20.
- Woolworth, Astrodome, Loop 610S at Kirby (797-1000). Dec 14 at 3: Mimbres Vikings. Dec 21 at noon: Buffalo Bills. \$14 & \$17 (end zone only).

**EVENTS**

- Kappa Christmas Pilgrimage, 145 Radney Rd, 101 Radney Rd, 624 Sharie Circle, 328 Buckingham, 3257 Reba, and 3355 Del Monte (520-6550 or 527-9474). The Williamsburg Foundation and Houston floral designers create holiday settings. Dec 5 thru 7. Fri 6-9pm; Sat 10am-9pm; Sun 10am-6pm.
- Rothko Chapel Awards and Carter-Mentz Prize, Rothko Chapel, 1409 Sul Ross at Yupon (524-9839). Rothko Chapel Awards for Commitment to Truth and Freedom and the First Carter-Mentz Human Rights Prize will be presented. Archbishop Desmond Tutu will deliver the keynote address for the awards, which will be



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## HOUSTON

broadcast live on radio and television Channel 88 (KUHT). The \$10,000 Rotkoff Chapel Award will be shared by Soviet dissident Yuri Orlov, who writes, and the Mutual Support Group of German Friends. President George Bush, Congresswoman Dominique Menil will present the \$100,000 prize to be shared by seven human rights activists. Dec. 10, 7:30-9. Free. ②

**Sam Houston Park** Christmas Candlelight Tour, 1100 Bagby at Allen Pkwy (223-8367). (See Points of Interest: Sam Houston Park.)

## MUSEUMS

**Bayou Bend**, 1 Westcott (529-8773). The former home of philanthropist Imogene Hogg now contains American antiques from the mid-1800's to the early 1900's, period pieces, and scenes from each month (except Mar & Aug). 1-5, 10-11:30. Open House/holiday decorations, Santa Claus, carolers, and a live nativity scene (1-4, free). Tours during the week by reservation (\$4). Gift shop. Mon thru Fri 10-2:45, Sat 10-11:45. ② Fifth floor. Call ahead for reservations.

**Museum of Natural Science**, 1 Hermann Circle Dr in Hermann Park (526-4273). See a splendid collection of the earth's treasures: over 600 minerals and gems are on display in the Lillie and Roy Cullen Gallery of Earth Science. Thurs Jan 31 in Brown Auditorium: "Dinosaurs—Life and Death in the Age of Dinosaurs"—including a brontosaurus and her baby, pterosaurs, and a tyrannosaurus rex—that move and growl realistically (adults \$4, children \$2). Dec 8 thru 31: Christmas Tree Show—nine local organizations each decorate a Christmas tree. Jones' Gallery: Christmas trees and wreaths. Jan 4: Christmas Star—Is the Star of Bethlehem a natural event or a miracle? (call for show times; adults \$3, children \$1.50). Dec 21: Stars of Winter—learn to identify planets and constellations along with meteor showers, comets, and the phases of the moon (adults \$3, children \$1.50). Other holiday tours every Sun. (1-4). Also: bird walks first Mon of every month; bring your binoculars and meet in the parking lot behind the museum (at 9 a.m.; free). Open Sun 1-5, Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 9-5, Sat 9-6. \$1-\$2. Sat 9-1; every Mon 10-11:30. ② Normal entrance & east entrance of new wing. ② Lower floor of new wing.

**San Jacinto Museum of History**, base of San Jacinto Monument, San Jacinto Battleground State Park, off Texas Hwy 225 on Texas Hwy 134, 20 minutes southeast of downtown (479-2421). Located on the site where the battle was fought between Texas and Mexico. Observation deck elevator ascends 489 feet to a panoramic view (adults \$2, children 50¢). Museum open 7 days 10-6. Free. ②

## ART INSTITUTIONS

**Blaifer Gallery**, University of Houston, entrance 16 off Cullen (749-1329). Thurs Dec 19: Legends and Landscape in Australian Art. Mon thru Fri 10-5, Sun 1-5. ②

**Children's Museum**, 2201 Allen Pkwy (522-1138). Exhibits include Wonder Bodies—about health and nutrition; Childhood on the Texas Frontier—a reconstructed settlement; KID-TV—a video newsreel studio; Bear Beginnings—a collection of stuffed teddy bears; Safety Station; Kulture Station—exhibits on science and technology, and a recycling center for creative art projects. Dec 6 & 7: Adventures with Music and Design—a Smithsonian institution workshop held jointly with next-door theater Stages; also in Dec 6 & 7: Children's Holiday Concert. Call for schedule of programs (call for schedules & prices). Tue & Sat 10-5, Wed, Thur & Sun 1-5. ② Children & senior citizens \$1, adults \$2, members free. ②

**Conner Prairie Arts Museum**, 5216 Monroe (526-3129). Thurs Jan 4: Jane French—paintings, 1954-1984 (Dec 10-14, lecture by Virginia Mecklenberg of the Smithsonian Institution on the landscape tradition). Dec 6 thru Jan 25: paintings by Lee Smith (Dec 6 at 4; gallery talk by the artist). The museum shop carries unusual items and objects, many made by artists. Tue thru Sat 10-5, Sun 1-6. ②

**Diverse Works**, 214 Travis (223-8346). Dec 3 thru Jan 10: Art in Public Places—artists' designs and maquettes for restoration of Old Market Square, including tile murals for benches by Maria Flato, photography by Jon Held, stained glass by sculptor Doug Hollis and Richard Turner, and a sculpture by James Surls. Dec 5 thru Jan 10: installation by Doug MacWhirley. Tue thru Sat 10-6, noon-4. ②

**Glassell School of Art**, 5101 Montrose (529-7659). Thurs Dec 31: Mail Art/Artists' Stamps—works from the collection of Jon Held, Jim Dine, and others. Sat Jan 1: exhibition by the Houston Center for Photography, 1441 W. Alabama (529-4755). Thurs Dec 5: Photographs at Auction: exhibit at HCP, biennial auction. Dec 6 at 11 am: Paradise Bar & Grill, 401 McGowen at Brazos. Dec 12 thru Jan 25: Patrick Clancy 365-360—installation photographs by the artist. Call for schedule of classes and workshops. Wed thru Fri 11-5, Sat & Sun noon-5. ②

**Lawndale Art and Performance Center**, 5600 Hillman at Dimitriuk (521-4155). Thurs Dec 17: Diverse Idioms—work by Margo Price, Michael Gatrell, Charlie Sargent, Anna Valdez, Lee, and Texas and Oklahoma artists. Sat Dec 19: Video Visions—work from the Whitney Biennial Series and open screenings by local artists. Dec 12 at 8: On the Edge—new music, dance, performance, and a reading by Houston artists (\$2). Tue thru Sat 10-5 & Sun 1-5. ②

**Museum of Art of the American West**, 1221 McKinney, One Houston Center lobby (650-9933). Dec 5 thru Jan 30: landscapes by Merrill Mahaffey. Mon thru Fri 10-5. ②

**Museum of Fine Arts**, 1001 Bissonnet (526-1361). Dec 1, 3-9; First Choice: holiday gifts and trunk show by an international array of artists. Local artists include Cathy Smith and Carolyn Dahl of Fiber Artists, Linda Heuer, Diana Fawcett, Carol Colleagues, Drew Eberhart, Janice Ross, Lee Benner, and Val Link (see p. 72). Thurs Dec 31 in Cullinan Hall: Christmas Around the World—monumental, traditionally decorated tree surrounded by ceramic figures created by Glassel School of Art Junior School students. Thurs Jan 1: Art in New Mexico, 1940-1945: Paths to Taos and Santa Fe. Thurs Jan 11: Illusion and Reality: Fashions in

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## HOUSTON

Ocean Club, 1815 St. James (963-9314). We spied asymmetric levels (two with dancing), generic contemporary pop, lead tube of Corvettes and schlocky rock. The Ocean Club still rides the crest of popularity, though. The ocean front still offers the best views in the outer-loop night-spots—but they can be fickle as a fish. Valet parking. Sea cruise buffer Sun thru Thur 9, Fri 8. Open Mon thru Sat 5-2, Fri 5-4, Sat 7-4. Sun 7-2. Cover \$2.00. AE, MC, V.

Red Lion Restaurant & Pub, 7815 S. Main (795-5000). Head upstairs—full of low-ceilinged, wood-paneled nooks and crannies—for darts throwing, conversing, and raising a few. Live music. Wed thru Sat; times vary. Open Mon thru Thur 11-1, Fri 11-2, Sat 4-2. Restaurant open only Sun 4-10. No cover. Cr.

Ricky's Turtle Club, 2611 N. NASA Road One (326-6113). Walk past the neon signs to the rustic room. Go up the stairs to the bar to take in the view; hot lights and star shine, bay breezes soft white—is this Jimmy Buffet's milies. Live music. Wed thru Sun at 9. Open Mon & Tue 11-midnight. Wed thru Sun till 2. No cover. AE, MC, V.

Rockhouse, 3620 Washington Ave (784-1936). The old bank building now showscases national and regional touring acts from the whole spectrum of contemporary music, with increasing appearances by local rockers. Lobby-level reserved seating available only through advance ticket. Open one hour early show time; open daily 8-11 p.m. Cover \$5 & up. AE, MC, V. (Call ahead)

Safar Bar, 6367 Richmond (784-8999). Flora: palms fronds waving in mechanized sync. Fauna: mature, well-scrubbed adults, prone to moving rhythmically in the glasseye-in-a-hole. Jungle beat: classic and current rock. Live music Sun. Valet parking. Mon thru Fri 11-2, Sat 7-2. Cover \$1-\$3. AE, MC, V. (Call ahead)

T.K. Tacos, 1010 S. Main (784-1779). A corner bar and eatery in the middle of the block with hand-painted (both on the walls and front customers) and a TV that tunes in sports games. Open 7 days 4-2. No cover. AE, MC, V.

Tropics, 1249 Uvalde at IH 10 (453-1111). Tropics brings theatrical

disco, synchronized lighting, and grazing to the far east side. Exotic

birds and monkeys are soft-sauced into the stage, and art and steamtables into the bar. Buffet Sun thru Fri 5-9. Open Sun thru

Thur 5-2, Fri 4-2, Sat 7-2. Cover \$3 Pri & Sat. AE, MC, V. (Call ahead)

## RESTAURANTS

**UPDATE** Adrian's, El Mercado del Sol, 2115 Runnels (224-0353). Two women patiently pat out tortillas by hand to the rhythm of guitarists playing songs in *la lengua*. Waiters bring by, hand out tortillas, and remanage restaurant. For instance, two large veggie shanks topped with sautéed tomato and herbs, talles \$9.50, one of the best buys in town. If you fill up on the complimentary little meatballs and hot bread, you have plenty of pocket change for ten peso ravioli stuffed with spinach and ricotta, or even oven-baked, a scrumptious carbonara affair with ladyfingers, whipped cream, and liqueur. Now, that's a bargain. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2. Dinner Mon thru Sat 5:30-midnight (or "late"), Sun till 9:30. Reservations suggested. Moderate to expensive. AE, MC, V.

**UPDATE** Anthony's, 4611 Monroe (524-1922). Despite the sleek interior with spangled paintings, crisp linens, and rosy walls—not to mention being owned by restauranteur Tony Vassil, the restaurant remains reasonably priced. For instance, two large veggie shanks topped with sautéed tomato and herbs, talles \$9.50, one of the best buys in town. If you fill up on the complimentary little meatballs and hot bread, you have plenty of pocket change for ten peso ravioli stuffed with spinach and ricotta, or even oven-baked, a scrumptious carbonara affair with ladyfingers, whipped cream, and liqueur. Now, that's a bargain. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2. Dinner Mon thru Sat 5:30-midnight (or "late"), Sun till 9:30. Reservations suggested. Moderate to expensive. AE, MC, V. (Call ahead)

**UPDATE** Atchafalaya, 8816 Westheimer at Fondren (975-7873), and 14904 North Frey (IH 45), take Airtex exit (821-567). Don't worry about pronouncing the dishes on the menu; you can always point when you order the Atchafalaya and filet mignon. The menu includes such specialties as oysters Rockefeller, Crawfish. On the other hand, even a child could order cold oysters on the half shell, red beans and rice (nicely picante), or a well-stocked bowl of gumbo. The eclectic interior that pairs an enormous gilt mirror and parlor piano gives you plenty to look while you wait for a table. Bar. Weekend brunch. Mon thru Thur 11-11, Fri & Sat till midnight. Sun till 10. North Frey: Mon thru Thur 11-11, Fri & Sat till 11-11, Sun 11-10. Moderate, AE, MC, V. (Call ahead)

Bear Moon, 1010 Bass (524-3777). The view of tiny Bell Park is a draw in itself. We watched families with children while a frisky puppy that fell in the pond, and assorted stragglers. Inside, we enjoyed a Caesar salad with crisp romaine and huge croutons and battery escargots served over fried potatoes (sparkled with tomatoes, herbs, and garlic). The filet mignon was a bit overcooked, but the over-fried eggs were all around though we disagreed on whether the orange saffron sauce (one the seafood cocktail) had too much bite. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-12. Dinner Tue thru Thur 6-10, Fri & Sat 11-11, Sun 11-10. Closed Sun. Reservations recommended. Moderate to expensive. AE, MC, V.

Bistro Garden, 2811 Bannell Ln (528-2811). The charming old Hadley house has been renamed and attractively remodeled to include half walls between the little rooms and a handsome antique bar. It also probably been given a new lease on life, though the inhabitants of Cleo Beasley's 517 (now Karen Ruiz, formerly of Cafe Luxford). Chef Ruiz produces a crisp spinach salad with warm bacon dressing, nicely grilled sausages, and firm fresh angelini in basil cream sauce. She also whipped up a lovely chocolate cake with a light frosting, which was the closest late-sugar fixer. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Sat 11-11-12. Dinner Tue thru Sat 6-10. Closed Sun. Reservations recommended. Moderate to expensive. Cr.

\* Brennan's of Houston, 3300 Smith (522-9711). Native and international up the new Tex-Mex culture, but Brennan's effort is serious, even seriously fine dining. Marinated tomatillos on lettuce served with a cilantro vinaigrette, redfish topped with crab in a spicy creole mustard sauce, or grilled salmon with fine herbed and basil bread accompanied by baked beans and green beans, traditional sides decked with fresh flowers and paintings. Fine wine list. Jackets at lunch & dinner. Bar. Lunch

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## HOUSTON

**Mon thru Fri 11-1-45.** Dinner 7 days 6-9:45. Brunch Sat 10:30-2, Sun 10-2. Reservations suggested. Expensive to very expensive. Cr. ©

**Brenner's,** 10911 Katy Fwy (665-2001). We were impressed by the quality of the thick steaks, both the smaller tenderloin and the 16-ounce strip. Included was a mixed green salad with a variety of homemade dressings served on the side; a choice of vegetables (also homemade). Come for the view: the restaurant's windows give a view of a massive strand, trees, plants, and false front structures that is half Disneyland and half Hollywood—but totally pleasant. Bar. Lunch Tue thru Fri 11:30-2. Dinner Tue thru Sat 5-8:30. Brunch Sun 10-2. Closed Mon. Reservations recommended at dinner. Very expensive. Cr. ©

**Butter's,** 4621 Monroe (521-0722); also 2946 S. Shepherd (528-1500). When photographer Peter Brown's works lined the walls not long ago, we weren't too sure whether we were visiting a restaurant or a gallery. After taking in a couple of thick cuts beef and having sampled the house-made miso soup—a crunchy salad of cauliflower, carrots, mushrooms, and red peppers, we were sure the emphasis was on restaurant. Beer & wine. Mon thru Fri 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat 9-10, Sun 9-8. Inexpensive to moderate. AE, MC, V. ©

\* **Cafe Annie,** 5860 Westheimer (780-1522). The rich wood

and gleaming brass interior spells French, but, given the border flavor of most dishes, perhaps it's just that. Can't say we'd mind. Reservations. Ave. We start with an upscale mache appetizer with tom yum of cabbage, *creme fraiche*, sea scallops, cilantro, and avocado puree arranged around a spicy *pico de gallo*. Then traditional dishes take on a Latin spark: chilled angel-hair pasta with limoncino cream, and a salmon fillet with saffron risotto. The sides? Grilled Norwegian salmon comes with a mild ancho pepper sauce. Bar. Lunch Tue thru Fri 11:30-2. Dinner Tue thru Thur 5-10, Fri & Sat 10-30. Closed Sun & Mon. Reservations recommended. Expensive. Cr. ©

**Captain Benny's Fisherman,** (720-6820). The deer acknowledged his fitness in the kitchen under the tutelage of Mary Neely Reck, a

native of New England who has eighties, with the likes of veal seppos with lump crab meat in an anchovy-pepper bearnaise. The crisp salad is meltaway with sesame oil dressing, and the house-made pasta comes with sweet and creamy pesto. Bar. Lunch Mon-Fri 11-2-3. Dinner Mon-Thur 5-10, Fri 5-10-30, Sun 5-9:30. Sun brunch 11-3. Moderate to expensive. AE, MC, V. ©

**Captain Benny's Half Shell,** 7409 Main (795-9051); call for other locations. The Captain moors his little boat along the city's well-trafficked river. IH 10, FM 1960, and U.S. 59. As the captain stream by, folks inside the Captain's can safely feast on briny

freshly shucked oysters, sip a couple of longnecks, or hit on a plate of crispy fried shrimp. Beer. Mon thru Sat 11:30-1-45. Closed Sun. Reservations. ©

**Charley T's,** 3700 Buffalo Speedway (960-9711). Where do professional eaters go when they're off-duty? We often hear for Charley T's, to enjoy the comfortable setting of deep blues and mahogany woods and the dependable service. Our only recent minor complaint was that the baked shrimp, overwhelmed by Westchester sauce and herbed butter, seemed overcooked. However, the happy combination of watercress, hearts of palm, and calamari with a red pepper vinaigrette, and fettuccine topped with shrimp and asparagus (with the accents of rosemary and thyme) were more than delicious. Beer & wine. Closed Sun. Reservations. ©

**Charley's,** 517 317 Louisiana (224-4438). Arturo Sosa has been promoted from chef to new chef and, so far, is basting the fish. His crab cakes are a little soft, but he has a fine papaya-flavored crab cake that's dry and delicious. On the other hand, he's hit a home run with angel-hair pasta topped with pine nuts, wild mushrooms, and pancetta in Marsala cream sauce with baked chicken, garnished and served in ginger-orange glaze. And this is the restaurant's famous dish: a scallop on a frosty purple; this may tip his scales and will definitely tip yours. Lighting and mirrored walls give a theatrical feel—and an opportunity to check out the clientele. Mon thru Fri 11-2-3. Dinner Mon thru Fri 5-10, Sat 5-10-30. Mon thru Sat 6-11. Closed Sun. Reservations suggested. Expensive to very expensive. Cr. ©

**Chief Huang's,** 5375 Westheimer (780-0888). Let's face it: this is a specialist's world. One of our group majored in woxon (so to speak) and declared the austrom won ton soup just right. Another claimed the wonton soup to be the best he'd ever had. And another with garlic and scallions. The tough-looking old dame was teenager with a penchant for dumplings, and she judged the fried ones, accompanied by a spicy, gingery sauce, to be worthy of her attention. The comfortable, light-colored surroundings and eager-to-please waitstaff make this a special place. Bar. Mon-Fri 11-10, Fri 11-11, Sat noon-11, Sun noon-10. Moderate to expensive. AE, MC, V. ©

**Chez Eddy,** fourth floor of Sculfori Tower, 6560

Glenside. Eddy has been from chef to new chef and, so far, is basting the fish. His crab cakes are a little soft, but he has a fine papaya-flavored crab cake that's dry and delicious. On the other hand, he's hit a home run with angel-hair pasta topped with pine nuts, wild mushrooms, and pancetta in Marsala cream sauce with baked chicken, garnished and served in ginger-orange glaze. And this is the restaurant's famous dish: a scallop on a frosty purple; this may tip his scales and will definitely tip yours. Lighting and mirrored walls give a theatrical feel—and an opportunity to check out the clientele. Mon thru Fri 11-2-3. Dinner Mon thru Fri 5-10, Sat 5-10-30. Mon thru Sat 6-11. Closed Sun. Reservations suggested. Expensive to very expensive. Cr. ©

**Chez Twenty-One,** 1947 W. Gray at Driscoll, park and enter at rear (521-9209). Chez has a healthy split personality. On one side of the aisle, the costume crowd lists to local musicians tickling the ivories. The music is good, the atmosphere is good, when it's diners start on banquets. They also enjoy some good food, if our recent visit is any indication. *Médaillons* of chicken topped with crayfish or *quenelles* of sole atop fresh ariste hearts made good entrées. The soft, smooth, velvety texture of the fish made them enough for a mouthful. The peameal and rump steaks were enough for two. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2-30. Dinner Mon thru Thur 6-10, Fri & Sat till midnight. Closed Sun. Reservations required. Expensive to very expensive. Cr. ©

**Confederate House,** 4000 Westheimer (522-1936). Among the traditional pillars and largely Riverwalk diners, we feel compelled to order the thick sliced strip or the thick, rare-ripen lamb chops. We dutifully devour a couple of steaming hot ribs and split an order of not-very-ordinary onion rings, thick and crisp. Piling our plates high, we then move on to the ribs, which we remember the House offers in three sizes: a small, a large, and a huge cloisonné bird. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2-30. Dinner Mon thru Thur 6-11, Sun till 10. Reservations recommended. Moderate to expensive. AE, MC, V. ©

**D'Amico's,** 301 Smith (522-0439). The waiters may not bother you with their chatty patter, but napkins on your lap bar but they will steer you toward the best steaks and wines and answer questions with assurance. They will recommend the rich ossobuco topped with finely chopped vegetables or the grilled, spicy Italian sausages with prosciutto. They will also offer a choice of fettuccine Alfredo tabbouleh while keeping you well supplied with fresh bread and complimentary caponata. Who needs the frills, anyway? Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-2-30. Dinner Mon thru Thur 5-10, Sat 5-10-30. Mon thru Sat 6-11. Closed Sun. Reservations suggested. Moderate to expensive. Cr. ©

**Dong Ting,** 611 Stuart (527-0005). Owner Sam Hwang has moved down to the Texas Circuit, calling it "the best place where he has access to the finest Chinese ingredients." Inside, there he has accented the restaurant's pale French interior with oriental screens and ceramics. The shrimp dumplings, steamed and served on cabbage, and the baby snapper rich with ginger, scallions, and black beans have gotten even better since the move. The fabulously soft-shelled crabs in black bean sauce, however, begged for

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## HOUSTON

served atop a bed of black beans with a dollop of tomatillo sauce, lost by being dry and overcooked, though it looked as pretty as a picture. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2:30. Dinner Sun thru Thur 6-11, Fri & Sat till midnight. Sun brunch 11:30-4. Moderate to expensive. Cr. (S)

River Oaks Grill, 2630 Weatherholt (520-738). On a recent visit, the noisy patios at the bar on the landing made peaceful dining an impossibility. They masked our small crisis of disappointment with the lack of a menu and the absence of a hostess at the plate. They covered over our exclamations of joy over the creamy lobster bisque; the moist, perfectly cooked flounder rumpfetti with a light, airy texture; and the generous portion of ripe strawberries. The atmosphere is open, airy, and casual. It's a great place to sit and eat. The River Oaks Grill is located at 2630 Weatherholt, across from a Rio Grande cantina. Bar. Mon thru Fri 6-10:30, Sat & Sat 11. Closed Sun. Reservations suggested. Expensive. AE, MC, V. Restaurant for Hef and Bird, 2220 Wilcrest (977-9524). They have a great menu of seafood, meat, and vegetable dishes. They are fried on one side by rice and on the other by red canola oil. They do le well with a shiny, sinewy asaikin version and an over-dressed salad of mostly iceberg lettuce. Large flour-rolled and anise-flavored cookies are served with coffee or tea. A large, piping hot shrimp cocktail (four large shrimp) at a buck and a half each. Please surroundings include an open brick hearth with a massive furnace running the entire width of the bar. Open Mon thru Fri 11-30, 2-10, Sat 11-1, Sun 11-1. Closed Mon. Reservations required. Moderate to expensive. AE, MC, V.

Ruggles Grill, 903 Westheimer (324-3439). Since the early seventies, inner Westheimer sports with stained glass, overstuffed furniture, and mid-priced menus have given way to, um, several years virtually the last of the lot. Ruggles will reward you with long, leisurely dinners, though, if you're willing to pay the price by, i.e., taking chef Bruce Molassan of SRO onto your boat. He excels at such stews as grilled red snapper topped with shrimp and avocado butter, and larger skewered shrimp amazingly wrapped in this slices of chicken, slivers of jalapeño, and bacon. Entrées come with either mashed potatoes or rice, bread, or a salad. Lunch Tues. 11-3:30; Tues.-Thurs. 5-11; Fri. 5-11; Sat. 5-11; Sun. brunch 11-2:30. Dinner Tues. thru Thurs. 5:30-11; Fri. & Sat. till midnight. Sun. 5:30-10. Sun brunch 11-2:30. Closed Mon. Reservations suggested. Moderate. C

**UPDATE** Ruth's Chris Steak House, 6213 Richmond (789-2333). Sadly, many of the oil industry signs lining the walls now qualify as memorabilia. Nevertheless, Ruth's still serves up boozemont portions of aged prime beef in sizzling butter sauce. Chilled asparagus appears in remoulade or fresh raspberries in cream make fine additions to the meal. However, a recent appetizer—dry, overly garlicked crabmeat in mushroom caps—could only be called a bust. Bar. Sun thru Fri 11:30-11, Sat 5-11.

Very expensive. Cf & JCB (American Cr.).  
S.319 Smith (529-0999). With its paté-colored walls, French windows, and courtyard, this new Richard Scafarelli enterprise is even more select than his old Le Serafino. Our favorite dish is deep-fried rice with shrimp, a most delicious rice dish. On Sundays served with sun-dried tomatoes. Next came duck ravioli, grilled salmon with basil leaves in cream, and a wicked chocolate mousse cake on raspberry base. Only dry, tasteless bread was a quibble. Good wines, reasonably priced, and a late-evening jazz combo. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-3-30, cocktails 3-6. Dinner Mon thru Wed 6-11, Thur thru Sat midnight. Closed Christmas.

moderate to expensive. *Arc., NC, V.*

Taj Mahal, 8328 Gulf Fwy at Bellfort (649-2818). Indian cuisine still holds its own in the Houston ethnic jungle, with rich, creamy sauces, steaming breads studded with vegetables, and pungent tandoor-roasted meats. A recent lamb dish came off a bit dry at the Taj, but chicken in tomato (tomyum) sauce and fluffy basmati rice scented with bay and cinnamon sticks gave fine value for the modest tariff. *Pleasant atmosphere; served by native brasses and thumsi.* Tues. thru Fri. 11-2, Sat. Sun 11-2. Dinner 7-10. *Closed Mon.* Reservations advised. *See also* *Mardon's.*

\*\* + Tony's, 1801 Post Oak Blvd. (622-6778). We loved the patio of complimentary grilled vegetables. But, by the time we took care of those, polished off an angel-hair pasta appetizer loaded with crab, finished the chilled asparagus salad, and nibbled at some crusty bread, we had just do justice to the red snapper in sesame seed/parmesan crust and lime butter sauce. Then we had to deal with a rich chocolate mousse, plus a huge "tree" of fresh fruit and a dish of chocolate cookies. It was great! A meal of sleep, though, with dramatic paintings, flowers. Cost: \$15-\$25.

Lunch Mon-Sun 11:30-2:30. Dinner Mon thru Sat 6-11:15. Closed Sun. Reservations suggested. Very expensive. Cr.

**U P D A T E** ★ ★ Bldg 106-TA's, 2 Post Oak Central, 1980 Post Oak Blvd (Incl 800). Waiters dressed in tuxedos, orchids on the tables, low lights, Chinese wall hangings, and a post Post Oak location clue you to expect cuisine rather than Chinese. The menu is extensive, including a la carte and a la family. The food is good, though not outstanding. The prices are almost any amount for the specialty dishes of seafood, resulting in a lettuce leaf cup (and topped with rich brown sauce). Or for the whole pieces of pink salmon mixed with hot oil and hot spics. Some things are simply priceless. Jacket at dinner. Bar. Mon thru Thurs 11-10, Fri-Sun 11-10:30, Sat noon-10, Sun noon-10. Reservation recommended weekends. Expensive to very expensive.

This Month

*Small, new, or offbeat places to try*

Jimmy G's, 307 North Bell East (931-7654). This Cajun crowd can be confusing. Jimmy G's is located in the now-defunct Don's location, but is owned by the folks who brought you Willie G's, Landry's, Magnolia Bar & Grill, and Don's—not this one but the one on Post Oak. Whatever the relation, this branch of the Landry's clan offers moderately priced, well-prepared food. Raw oysters come cold and briny. Both the blackened red snapper, surprisingly good topped with a Postchartrain sauce (mushrooms, crab, and wine), and a simple crabmeat dish sautéed in lemon butter make fine entries. Attractive setting features deep green walls and

cream-colored wainscoting. Bar. Mon thru Sat 11-11, Sun til 10. Moderate to expensive. Cr.  
Kanomwan, 719 Telephone Rd (923-4230). Far East has met East End, and the result is a pleasant little spot with large picture windows.



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## HOUSTON • LAREDO

shrimp, and vegetables (served with a spicy black bean sauce), and tom yam goong, a hot-and-sour soup with shrimp, lemongrass, and straw mushrooms. Our menu also includes chicken piccata, a dish garnished from a library of flavors of lime, lemons, chili, paste, and coconut. No liquor. Lun Mon thru Fri 11-3. Dinner Mon thru Thur 5-10, Fri 5-11, Sat noon-11. Closed Sun. Moderate. MC, V, ©

## LAREDO

Send general entertainment listings to:  
Around the State, Box 6491, Laredo 78042

## MUSIC

### Classical

DEC 11: Laredo Philharmonic, Blessed Sacrament Church, 2219 Galveston (727-8886). Teleman: Concerto for Violin and String Orchestra; Handel: Messiah (part one), Frances Lyon, soprano; Elisa Thompson, mezzo-soprano; John Kastner, viola. Terence Frazer, conductor. At 8. \$10-\$15. ©

## SPORTS

### Greyhound Racing

Nuevo Laredo Park, 2829 Venustiano Carranza, Nuevo Laredo, 6.5 miles south of Laredo. Box office No. 1, Texas office: 1000 Zarria P. (726-0549 or 800-392-5260). Greyhound races Wed thru Fri 7-10:30, Sat & Sun 3 & 7. Air-conditioned, glass-enclosed grandstand. Bets and payoffs in U.S. dollars. Get adm 25¢; reserved upstairs seating \$2. Metrobus leaves La Posada Hotel at 6:30 p.m. for the track. Bus returns to hotel 20 minutes thereafter. Also leaves from major shopping centers and hotels in city. Adults \$3 one way, \$.50 round trip; children under 16, \$.25 round trip. © Call ahead.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

City Hall Square, Hidalgo & Flores (722-4772). The heart of a recent downtown revitalization, this former municipal office complex has colorful shops offering everything from brick-a-brac and American Indian artifacts to clothing, restaurants, gift shops, restaurants, and outdoor vendors (try the fruit *huacamole* sold at the southeast corner). Open 7 days 10-8. © Limited.

La Casona, 2712 Belden, Nuevo Laredo (28877). Begin your search here for the perfect hand-woven piece for your patio or sala. Also offers a variety of Mexican crafts, including pottery, glassware, linens, objects *dior*, and baskets. Open 7 days 8-6.

Marti's, 2933 Victoria & Guadalupe, Nuevo Laredo (23137). A virtual tower of boubles, this favorite shopping place boasts three floors of merchandise culled from the world's market. You'll find everything from Mexican apparel, and little-size paperweights llamas in what has been dubbed Nieman's on the border. Open 7 days 9:30-6. © Limited.

## NIGHTLIFE

Cadillac Bar, Belden & Ocampo, Nuevo Laredo (20-015). White-jacketed waiters, indifferent to crowds and chaos, hustle to and fro delivering the Cad's legendary Ramps, gin fizzes, margaritas, and nachos. Open 7 days 10-11. No cover. ©

Cantina del Tres Ranchos, City Hall Square, Hidalgo & Flores (722-4777). Join a crowd of locals who will sit on the floor and the cold ones this side of Siberia. Wed thru Sat 6-2. Closed Sun thru Tue. No cover. Cr. ©

The Rox-Z, 4610 San Bernardo (723-0517). The change in drinking age has sent the Clearasil crowd to Rox-Z, where both the regulars and newcomers are trying to keep in step with the powers that beat. Tue thru Sun 6-2. Closed Sun & Mon. Cover \$2. 5:30-10:30. Closed Sun. Moderate. Cr. ©

## RESTAURANTS

**UPDATE** Tokyo Steak House, 4502 San Bernardo (724-9415). Ducks is a grill's best friend here, showing up in a misnomer soup, sautéed inside paper-thin crepes, or tucked inside a well-seasoned sandwich. Those who prefer sashimi should keep searching. Mon thru Fri 11:30-2:30 & 5:30-10:30. Closed Sun. Moderate. Cr. ©

Tom and Jerry's, Guerrero 3011, Nuevo Laredo (40775). Corona T-shirts wash up full tide every weekend here. Drawn by one of NL's most authentic Mexican restaurants, they feast on their tostadas (the most favorite), medallions of al pastor meat (served in a heady garlic sauce) and enchiladas verdes, chicken-stuffed and soaked in a sea of tangy tomatillo sauce. Bar till 2. Dinner Wed thru Sun 5:30-midnight. Closed Mon & Tue. Inexpensive to moderate. Cr. © With assistance.

## This Month

### Small, new, or offbeat places to try

La Noria Restaurant-Bar, Belden & Ocampo, Nuevo Laredo (2-66-41). Finally, a welcome alternative to the Cadillac Bar's gringofied Mexican-Texican mish-mash. Perhaps tapping into the neighborhood well site at its core, La Noria draws an immediate hit with nachos (the best we've ever had), a spicy, sour, appetizer soup (secret's in the goat's milk base) and ladyfinger-sized chicken taquitos gremmed with guacamole and topped with a delicate drizzle of cream. Steaks and seafood are the chart-toppers here; the chambord for two (with bittersweet chocolate sauce) shows a chef's hand. Bar. Inexpensive to moderate. Cr. © With assistance.



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## LUBBOCK

## LUBBOCK

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Around the State, 1919 31st St., Lubbock 79411

### THEATER

Resident

Texas Tech Theatre, 18th & Boston (742-3601). At 8:15, *Suo also*  
at 2. Gen admissions \$6, students \$5.  $\oplus$

DEC 4 THRU 8 & 11 THRU 14: A Christmas Carol.

### MUSIC

Classical

DEC 9: Texas Tech University Symphony, Memmolo Recital Hall,  
Texas Tech University Center, 15th & Boston (742-2294). Mozart:  
Concerto No 17 for Piano. Beethoven: Symphony No 2. William  
Westney, piano. Philip Lehmann, conductor. At 8:15. Free.  $\ominus$

Pop, Rock, Jazz, Etc.  
DEC 4: Liz Story and Michael Hedges, Allen Theatre, Texas  
Tech University Center, 15th & Boston (742-3621). Jazz. At 8:15.  
\$10.  $\oplus$

### DANCE

DEC 5 THRU 7: Ballet Lubbock, Civic Center Theatre, 1501 6th  
(793-9107). Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker. Fri at 7:30; Sat at  
7:30, Sun at 2. Gen \$8 & \$10, children, students & senior  
citizens \$6 & \$8.  $\oplus$

### EVENTS

Carol of Lights, Texas Tech University, west end of Broadway  
(742-2651). Buildings around Memorial Circle and the Broadway  
entrance to the campus are illuminated with Christmas lights.  
Lighting Dec 5 at 7 (continuing thru month from sunset til midnight). Free.  $\oplus$

### MUSEUMS

Texas Tech Museum, 4th & Indiana (742-2490). Permanent ex-  
hibits focus on the history of the Southwest. Thru Dec. *Texan*  
Photo Exhibit. New exhibits (including art from the 20th century  
(including state); also Denney Fringe—Collage Works; also Peter Hardt in  
Lubbock; also 150 Years of Quilts and Quiltmakers on the Texas  
South Plains; and *The Star of Christmas* (in the planetarium Tue  
through Fri at 7:30, Sat at 2:30 & 7:30, Sun at 2:30 & 5:30; \$1). Opens  
Dec 7; *Wood & Gwynn—Artistic Exhibitions*. Open Thu thru Sat  
10-5, Thur til 8:30, Sun 1-5. Free.  $\ominus$

### NIGHTLIFE

Fast & Cool Club, 2408 4th (747-5573). When the drinking age  
went up, Fat Dave's was transformed into Fast & Cool with go-go  
dancers, chain-link fencing, and drinks in plastic cups. Prominent  
regional and national bands have been booked during the three days. Promin-  
ent acts this week: Mod 2, 2-2, Clean Cut & Sun, cover. N  
Red Raider Club, 6025 Ave A (745-8334). A honky-tonk crowd  
gathers here every night of the week for two-stepping to live C&W  
music. Mid-life singles won't feel out of place. Larry Johnson sings  
Tue and Sat. *Milkhouse*, 10th & Mon. Open 7-2. Cover  
Fri & Sat \$2 (reservations recommended). Sun, \$1.  $\ominus$

### RESTAURANTS

**UPDATE** Beethoven's, Lubbock, Plaza Hotel, 3201 S.  
Loops 289 (797-3241). The menu offers excellent  
seafood and chicken dishes, including chicken calavados (boneless  
chicken breast topped with cream sauce flavored with calavados and slices of crisp, tart apple), while specialty range from the ordinary  
(steaks, chops, seafood) to the off-the-wall (such as the beef  
steak stuffed with spinach pesto). The dessert tray offers a tempting  
array of choices, but the puff pastry in our napoleons had lost its  
crispness. Bar. Thur thru Sat. Bar. Closed Sun & Mon. Expensive.  $\ominus$

Jug Little's Bar-B-Q, 60th & Shady (792-4778). The new location  
is bigger, brighter, and cleaner but manages to retain its former  
charm: the stuffed bear and the two-headed camel and the horse  
and buggy all made the move. Service is friendly and efficient, but now  
there's a bit more room for wait-in and a more relaxed atmosphere.  
Even the food, always good, has improved, particularly the potato salad and coleslaw. Live  
C&W music Thur thru Sat. Bar. Mon thru Sat 11-11. Sun 11-2:30  
p.m. Inexpensive to moderate. MC.  $\oplus$

L.P. Restaurant, 6203 North Loop (793-0046). We called our friends, purchased  
a bottle of red, and visited Ronnie four hours in advance, and arrived  
at the restaurant on time. We were rewarded with an excellent  
dinner centered around an extravagant beef Wellington. We started  
with the DiCicco salad (romaine lettuce with mayonnaise,  
pepperoni, and black pepper), and finished with chili and cherries  
Ronnie. Bring your own beer or wine. Most days Sun 11-2:30 &  
5:30-10. Closed Sun. Inexpensive to moderate. Cr.  $\oplus$

### This Month

#### Small, new, or offbeat places to try

Chancery, 80th & Indiana (796-0475). Toasted ravioli, spaghetti  
with garlic tomato sauce, or a baked potato are the possible  
accompaniments for steaks and chicken entrees here. Our "chicken  
of the day" was a whole chicken, if you prefer, with a combination  
of boneless grilled chicken, artichokes, mushrooms, and wild  
rice. The prime rib was prepared just the way we ordered it. Ma-



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## LUBBOCK • RIO GRANDE VALLEY

room, dark green, and white decor and occasional live dinner music reminiscent of the big band era suggest a ballroom atmosphere. Bar. Mon thru Sat 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Moderate to expensive. Cr. Mustard Seed Sandwich Shop & Bakery, 1620 Broadway (765-8110). Fresh baked cookies and breads are the basis for hearty sandwiches. One of them—their brownie was pronounced authentic by a transplant Kentuckian and features substantial whole bread, sliced turkey breast, tomato, bacon, and parmesan cheese. Desserts are also excellent, and choices are many. Our sheer delight was a sandwich with a generous helping of lightened, fresh-whipped cream, and the icing on our white chocolate cake with chocolate chips and coconut had a rich, buttery taste. Mon thru Fri 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Inexpensive. N.

### MIDLAND/ODESSA

Send general entertainment listings to:  
Around the State, Box 6073, Midland, 79711

#### THEATER

##### Resident

Theatre Midland, 2000 W. Wadley, Midland (682-4111). Thur

thru Sat at 8, Sun at 2:30. \$5-\$11. ☎  
DEC 5 THRU 20: Chapter Two—comedy by Neil Simon.

#### MUSIC Classical

DEC 2: Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale, Holiday Inn Country Villa, 4300 W. Hwy 80, Midland (563-5269). Christmas Cabaret Pops. Thomas Holschmidt, conductor. At 8. \$10-\$15. ☎  
DEC 4: Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale, Holiday Inn Country Villa, 4300 W. Hwy 80, Odessa (563-5269). (See Dec 2 for details.) ☎

#### SPORTS Basketball

Midland College, Chaparral Center, 3600 N. Garfield (685-4584). Dec 1: Clarendon. Dec 11: New Mexico Junior College. At 7:30. \$2-\$4. ☎

#### MUSEUMS

Art Institute of the Southwest, 4909 E. University, Odessa

(368-7222). Thru Dec 7: The Russell Lee Portfolio—40 photographs from the 1930's. Thru Dec 28: Modern Masters—collection of early-20th-century art. Dec 9 thru Jan 4: Contemporary Hispanic Folk Art; traditional arts and crafts. Tue thru Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5. ☎  
Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri, Midland (563-2822). Dec 1 thru Jan 15: Langdon Kihm Retrospective—includes portraits of Native Americans. Tue thru Sat 10-4, Sun 2-5. Free. ☎

### NIGHTLIFE

J.J.'s, Executel Hotel, 100 Airport Plaza, Midland (561-8000). Located between Midland and Odessa, this is a main stopping place for travelers. Happy-hour specials are offered each night at night to make room for dancing. Happy hours 6-7 p.m. Open 7 days 10-30 (closing varies). No cover. AE, MC, V. ☎  
Granada Club, 3312 W. Wall, Midland (687-4138). A true C&W club where boots, cowboy hats, and jeans are the only acceptable dress for an older crowd. Open 7 days 11-2. No cover. Cr. ☎

### RESTAURANTS

**UPDATE** Anazia, 350 Midland Dr., Midland (689-9887). Irresistible service, an intimate dining room, and continental offerings on the menu make this a popular place for wine and dining between shows. The veal dishes are among the best, especially the veal Oskar—thinly sliced meat enveloped in a mushroom and wine sauce. Less successful was a tender veal parmigiana in a nondescript marinara sauce which was rescued by a side of spaghetti and meatballs. The fish dish, the flaky red snapper Marsala was diminished by a bitter zucchini and tomato sauce. Deep-fried artichoke hearts are the star of the menu, but only a large party should order the antipasto tray. Bar. Mon thru Fri 11 a.m.-5:30-10, Sat 5:30-10. Closed Sun. Upper moderate. Cr. ☎

**UPDATE** Moon Palace, 2161 42nd St. at Grandview, Odessa (682-1611). Moon Palace is trying to survive on a reputation that was established when it was the only Chinese restaurant in town; now it could be learned from its manager, Carl Williams, about the dim sum and silver Gold Bar (the house specialty), tasting as if they were prepared for someone on a bland diet, and even though they are mixed with fresh vegetables—snow peas, cabbage, bamboo shoots, and water chestnuts—they still taste like they did. The same combination on the same theme is the teriyaki au laur au hor—shrimp wrapped in spicy bacon and deep fried in a too-starchy batter. Many barbecued ribs and homemade cinnamon rolls are still good. The ladies' parties are well-organized and require help, so be prepared to wait. Bar & wine. Mon thru Fri 11:30-9, Sat 11:30-9:30. Closed Sun. Inexpensive. AE, MC, V. ☎

### RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Send general entertainment listings to:  
Eren Seac, P.O. Box 3688, McAllen 78502

#### THEATER Touring

Jacob Brown Auditorium, Fort Brown Complex, Brownsville (542-9008). At 8. \$5-\$10. ☎  
DEC 29: A Christmas Carol—life-size marionettes perform in musical version of the Dickens classic.

#### MUSIC Classical

DEC 6: Valley Symphony and Chorale, Mary Hoge Aud., 503 E. 4th, McAllen (381-8682). "Saint-Saëns' Christmas Oratorio. Vaughan Williams' Massilia on Greenleaves. Carl Seale, conductor. At 8. \$6-\$8. ☎

DEC 7: Valley Symphony and Chorale, McAllen Civic Center, 1300 S. 10th, McAllen (381-8682). (See Dec 6 for details.) ☎

#### DANCE

DEC 6 & 7: Rio Grande Valley Ballet, Harlingen Municipal Aud., Fair Park Blvd., Harlingen (423-4200). Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker. At 2. \$4-\$6. ☎

DEC 13 & 14: Rio Grande Valley Ballet, McAllen Civic Center, 1300 S. 10th, McAllen (686-1382 or 686-4222). Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker. Sat at 2 & 8, Sun at 2. \$4-\$6. ☎

#### EVENTS

Christmas Lighted Boat Parade, starts at South Point Marina, proceeds down the channel and through the swing bridge, then goes under the new causeway and on to South Padre Island before turning back (943-7926). Christmas celebration island-style. Dec 13 at 7. Free. ☎ Variable. (See p. 19.)

#### ART Institutions

McAllen International Museum, Nolana & Bicentennial Blvd., McAllen (682-1564). Opens Dec 6. Forum of Christmas Trees. Thru Dec 28: The Maya—The Mystery of the Maya—mysteries in Mexico; also Three Visions of the Maya—photos of present-day life. Thru Dec 28: Lichens—photos by California naturalists. Tue thru Sat 5-7, Sun 1-5. Free. ☎

#### POINTS OF INTEREST

Giads Porte Zoo, Ringgold & 6th, Brownsville (546-2177). Lions, tigers, and bears, plus elephants, monkeys, and fish. Don't overlook the petting zoo where you'll come face-to-face with a variety of feathered friends. Mon thru Fri 9-3:30, Sat 9-6:30. \$1.50-\$3.50. ☎ Variable.

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## RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge, take FM 510, turn north between Bayview & Laguna Vista, and follow signs (748-3607). Bay-side haven for migrating birds which are visible from hiking trails and paved driving trails. Open 7 days down to dusk. Free. **© Variable.**

Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, from Alamo take FM Rd 907, then go .5 miles east on US Hwy 281 (Military Hwy) (187-3079). Two hundred acres of thicket along the Rio Grande is vacation home for thousands of migrating birds. Call the Rio Grande Valley Audubon Alert here for recent sightings of rare species in the Valley. Open 7 days down to dusk. Call for visitor center info. Free. **© Variable.**

## NIGHTLIFE

Austin Street Inn, 1110 Austin, McAllen (687-7703). Fifty-five bed motor inn. Located at this shore-pieced up the best night to find all the friends in town. Mon thru Sat 4-2. Closed Sun. No cover. AE, MC, V. **© Downstairs.**

Brenton's, 2021 Orchid, McAllen (687-1106). A popular touring band has put down roots in a new club that bears its name. Chic interior and we-tr-y harder attitude make this a welcome new stop on the upper Valley night circuit. Mon thru Fri 5-2, Sat & Sun 8:30-2. Cover varies. AE, MC, V. **©**

Officer's Club, 1300 Padre Blvd., South Padre Island (761-7182). Motor inn with a swimming pool. This is a relaxing place to escape the "stressful" island lifestyle with live jazz and relaxed conversation. Mon thru Sun 11-2. Sun noon-2. No cover. AE, MC, V.

South Dallas, McColl & Hockberry, McAllen (682-4133). Still enjoying the success of its mixed format (country/rock), SD is a grab bag of pulsing lights, neon art, and video screens. Mon thru Fri 4-30-2, Sat & Sun 8-2. Cover varies. AE, MC, V.

Tamale, 30 Virreyes, near the International Bridge, Reynosa (21444). Great stopping-off spot after an afternoon of shopping or before the evening's Mexican festivities. Open 7 days 5-2. No cover. Cr.

## RESTAURANTS

Blackboard's, 103 E. Saturas, South Padre Island (761-2962). Normally, we resort to Blackboard's for burgers when we've spent our weekend allowance on other island distractions, but during a recent Padre excursion, habit brought us back here even though our cash flow was fine. We discovered a seafood combo plate and a blackened fish sandwich that were both delicious and reasonably priced. Even with gourmet eats and cocktails, the bill for two was still under \$25. Bar. Open 7 days 11-11. Inexpensive to moderate. AE, MC, V.

Fish House, 1414 N. 77 Sunshine Strip, Harlingen (423-6550). No longer much mid-Victorian residents trek to the Island for first-rate food. Outdone by Texas' lastest fresh fish distributor, the cast of great cooks here serve red snapper, mahi-mahi, salmon, and trout—grilled, blackened, poached, fried, broiled, or sautéed. Steamed vegetables, buttery rolls, and homemade potato chips accompany the entrees. The pleasing sea-life motif almost convinces today's tourists that they're in Europe. Bar. Mon thru Thur 11-9, Fri & Sat 11-10, Sun 11-1. Moderate. MC, V. **©**

Hunan Chinese Cuisine, 2424 N. 10th, McAllen (686-4448). Soy Wars continue, with the 10th St parveys of oriental cuisine now numbering seven. High marks go to the almond chickens here—the best we've tasted within the city limits. Also commendable was the spicy shrimp with garlic. The staff is zippy enough to enhance the meal. The interior scores no points, unfortunately, so we congratulate the owners on their efforts to mask what two previous restaurant tenants left behind. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-3. Dinner Mon thru Thur 5-10:30, Fri & Sat 5-11, Sun 11-10. Moderate. AE, MC, V. **©**

La Patisserie, 1440 International Blvd., Brownsville (546-8172). Come down for the menu; this is a crow's nest where hungry Brownsvillagers break for a quick lunch or family supper. Go slow on the gooey queque/fondue appetizer (melted white cheese with cherries) served with steamy corn tortillas, because it's a good way to start the meal. The food is Spanish rice, guacamole, and spicy potato bread. Efficient service. Beer & wine. Open 7 days 10:30-11. Inexpensive. MC, V. **©**

Shogun, 2920 N. 10th, McAllen (682-1115). This place has been reincarnated once again, but now there's real promise. Besides getting some good food, you'll be amply entertained by your own tableside entertainment: flashing knives and fancy fingerfood. Although portions were a bit skimpy, we found nothing wrong with our teriyaki steak and shrimp or with an elegant onion soup with little islands of floating vegetables. Muted sunset-on-oak decor is a welcome change. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Sat 11-30, Sun 11-1. Moderate. MC, V. **©**

Yacht Club, 700 Yurria, Port Isabel (943-1301). The Yacht Club's excellent reputation is well established and well deserved. Mid-meal found one of us staring lustfully at eight tender shrimp balanced atop a mound of fettuccine Alfredo while another feasted on meatless grilled red snapper with a square piece of bacon when we thought those cold ones hadn't been cooked. Around the corner comes the dessert cart, laden with fruit tarts, and a chocolate-raspberry torte. Bar. Dinner Thur thru Tue 6-9:30. Closed Wed. Reservations recommended. Moderate. Cr. **©**

## This Month

### New, new, or offbeat places to try

Don Quijote, 2212 N. 10th, McAllen (687-9945). Say what you will about the enclaves, but most Tex-Mex connoisseurs agree it's the house platter that determines if an establishment passes the test. The Quijote's is held in fairly plain simple portions of beans and lots of guacamole topped on the chile rellenos. Other more ambitious menu items included lobster and Spanish dishes, but their inflty prices don't seem to fit in with the modest surroundings of this strip-center dining room. Bar. Mon thru Sat 11-10. Closed Sun. Inexpensive to moderate. MC, V. **©**

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- Former team physician for the Texas Longhorns
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▲▲▲



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# SAN ANTONIO



This New Year's Eve tens of thousands of revelers will besiege Alamo Plaza to make their adios to 1986 the biggest outdoor send-off in the state. The footloose can start dancing at 7 to La Franz, the Innocent By-standers, the Drugstore Cowboys, and Beto y los Fairlanes, who will be set up on three different stages. The tired and hungry can stock up on beer, sausage, menundo, chalupas, fajitas, and more at the many vendors' booths. As midnight approaches, you can watch a lone star rise over the Alamo only to be replicated a million times over in an extravagant fireworks display. Free (299-8480).

Send general entertainment listings to: Barbara Lubati, 212 W. Summit, San Antonio 78212

Send nightclub listings to: Nightlife, Box 12337, San Antonio 78212

## THEATER

### Touring

Majestic Performing Arts Center, 212 E. Houston (226-2626). Tue thru Fri at 8, Sat at 2 & 8, Sun at 2 & 7:30. Call for prices. (2)

DEC 9 THRU 14: Doubles—locker-room comedy starring Robert Reed and Gabe Kaplan.

### Resident

Alamo City Theater, 1150 S. Alamo (224-8666). Thur thru Sat at 8:15, Dec 14 & 21 at 2:30. \$10.

DEC 5 THRU FEB 14: A Chorus Line—Tony-award-winning musical.

Carver Community Cultural Center, 226 N. Hackberry (299-7211). Tue thru Thur at 8. Free. (2)

DEC 2 THRU 4: Chairman Mao, The Wolf is at the Door—experimental dance by Jump Start Performance Company.

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, 1300 Guadalupe (271-3151). Thur thru Sat at 8, Sun at 3. Adults \$3, children \$1. (2) DEC 10 THRU 12: El Pato and El Rastro—two one-act bullfights by Elena Garro (in Spanish).

San Antonio Little Theatre, San Pedro Park, Ashby & San Pedro (733-7258), Fri & Sat at 8:15, Sun at 2:30. \$9 & \$10. (2) DEC 7 (333-2103). Mon thru Thur at 10 a.m. \$2. (2) Side entrance.

DEC 8 THRU 11: Mother Goose's Holiday Follies Part II—revue of rhymes and riddles arranged by Rick Stoum (for children 4 and older).

## MUSIC Classical

DEC 6: Andres Cardenes, violin, Carver Community Cultural Center, 226 N. Hackberry (299-7211). At 8. Free. (2)

DEC 12: San Antonio Symphony, Lauri Aud, Trinity University, 715 Stadium Dr (223-5591). Mozart: Symphony No 39. Beethoven: Symphony No 3. Zdenek Macal, conductor. At 8:30. \$8-\$19. (2)

DEC 12 THRU 14: Chamber Opera Theatre, Carver Community Cultural Center, 226 N. Hackberry (271-7100). Menotti: Amahl and the Night Visitors. Britten: A Ceremony of Carols. Fri at 8, Sat & Sun at 3. \$10-\$15. (2)

DEC 13: San Antonio Symphony, Cockrell Theatre, Market & Bowie. (See Dec. 12 for details.) (2)

DEC 14: San Antonio Choral Society, San Fernando Cathedral, 115 Main Plaza (226-8341). Respighi: Laud to the Nativity. Gabrieli: Music for Brass and Choir. At 3. \$3. (2)

## Pop, Rock, Jazz, Etc.

DEC 6: San Antonio Symphony Pop, Cockrell Theatre, Market & Bowie (223-5591). Holiday music. With the Mastersingers. At 8. \$10-\$19. (2)

DEC 31: San Antonio Symphony Pops, Majestic Performing Arts Center, 212 E. Houston (223-9591). With Peter Nero, piano. Post-performance party at La Mansión del Rio, 112 College St at Pres. \$10-\$15 (reservations necessary). (2)

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## SAN ANTONIO

### DANCE

- DEC 5 THRU 8: *Incarne World Colibri Ballet Company*, Joaquin Miller Auditorium, Broadway & Hill. Tickets \$12-\$38-\$50. *Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker*. Fri at 8, Sat at 2. Adults \$8, children \$5. Children's performance Fri & Mon at 10 & noon. \$3.
- DEC 6: *La Compañia de Arte Espanol*, Beethoven Hall, S. Alamo & E. Durango (224-3000). *Cosecha*. At 8, 9, 10 & 11 p.m. & 13: *Homenaje Baile Musical*. At 8, 9 & 10. Auditorium Ctr (224-3000). *Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker*. Fri at 8, Sat at 2 & 8. Geo adm \$10-\$22.50, children half price.

### SPORTS Basketball

- San Antonio Spurs, Convention Center Arena, Market & Bowie (224-5758). Dec 4: *Seattle Super Sonics*. Dec 6: *Chicago Bulls*. Dec 9: *Portland Trailblazers*. Dec 13: *Golden State Warriors*. Dec 17: *Phoenix Suns*. Dec 27: *Denver Nuggets*. Dec 30: *Utah Jazz*. At 7:30. Geo adm \$15-\$22.

### Horse Show

- San Antonio Rose Parade, 24910 Toussaint-Beauregard, Boerne Stage Rd exit from IH 10 (698-3300). Dec 6 & 7 at 8 a.m.: dressage. Dec 11 thru 14 at 8 a.m.: hunter and jumper. Dec 20 & 21 at 8 a.m.: saddle show. Dec 28 at 9 a.m.: open show. Free.

### EVENTS

- Las Posadas, La Manzanita del Rio Hotel to Plaza Juarez in La Villita (224-5167). Illustrations of the Virgin Mary. Hotel's family's search for an inn. Ends with piñata party. Dec 16-18. Free.
- Los Pastores, Mission San José, San José & Roosevelt (224-4163). Handled down orally, the medieval Spanish mystery play incorporates Mexican and Indian influences. In Spanish with English translation. Dec 27 at 8, 9 & 10 a.m. Free.
- New Year's Eve Celebration, Alamo Plaza (209-8480). Three stages with continuous dance music. At midnight an illuminated lone star rises over the Alamo to the accompaniment of fireworks. Dec 31 at 7. Free. (See p. 98.)

### REVELATION

- Zbigniew Brzezinski, Laurie Aud, Trinity University, 715 Stadium Dr (736-8406). Speech by former national security advisor in the Carter administration. Dec 10 at 8. Free.

### MUSEUMS

- Institute of Texan Cultures, southeast corner, HemisFair Plaza,

Durango & IH 37 (226-7651). Museum focuses on contributions of ethnic groups to Texas heritage. Thru Jan 11: working replica of the Gutenberg press. Dec 13 at 3: bell ringers concert. Daily films and puppet shows. Tue thru Sun 9-5. Free.

White Museum, 3801 Broadway (226-5544). Local and natural history exhibits. Special exhibits include a traveling exhibition on animals. Pictures and photographs of Indian pictographs from caves in the Lower Pecos Valley. Opens Dec 7: designer doll houses. Tue thru Sat 10-5. Thu til 9, Sun noon-5. Gen adm \$3, children \$1. Thu 3-9 everybody free.

### ART Institutions

Carver Community Cultural Center, 226 N. Hackberry (299-7211). Dec 5 thru Jan 5: modernist paintings and sculpture by San Antonio artists. Mon thru Fri 8-4.

McNay Art Museum, 6000 N. New Braunfels (824-5348). This Spanish Colonial-style building houses a permanent collection of Postimpressionist French and contemporary American painting and sculpture. Thru Dec 24: exhibition of new York jewelry artworks. Thru Dec 31: survey of collections around the world. Dec 1-20: *Monet and Beyond*. In the Tobin Wing: designs for opera. Gallery tours are available. Tue thru Sat 9-5, Sun 2-5. Free.

San Antonio Art Institute, 6000 N. New Braunfels (824-0531). Dec 4-4: collage and paintings by Joyce Kozloff. Dec 11 thru 22: Dallas artist reinterprets the madonna icon. On the grounds: large-scale outdoor sculpture by David Smith, Isamu Noguchi, and Louise Nevelson. Dec 1-20: *Steel, aluminum, and ceramic*. Mon thru Fri 11-5, Sat 9-noon.

San Antonio Museum of Art, 200 W. Jones (226-5544). Former brewery has collections of American fine and decorative arts, Spanish Colonial and pre-Columbian art, photography, and oral art. Also Mexican folk, Japanese lacquer objects, and two Cassatt prints. Works from British Roy. Festival.

Opera Dec 14: Afro-American Art, 1800-1950. Open Dec 19: ancient Greek, Roman, and Egyptian pottery and sculpture. The next Sat 10-12, Sun 11-1. Sun noon-5. Gen adm \$3, children \$1, under 5 free. Thru Jan 1.

UT Health Science Center, Auditorium Foyer, 7703 Floyd Curl (691-6327). Thru Dec 8: pictorial history. Dec 10 thru Jan 11: mixed-media show of religious symbolism in art. Mon thru Sat 8-5, Sun 1-5.

UTSA Gallery, Arts Bldg, IH 10 & Loop 604W (691-4391). Dec 8 thru Jan 9: paintings by Betty Shelton. Dec 9 at 6: gallery talk by Shelton (free). Mon thru Sat 11-4, Sun 1-4. Free.

### OUTDOORS

Botanical Center, Funston Pl & N. New Braunfels (821-5155).

Winter foliage and native berry trees are in bloom. Thru Dec: prairie grasses and trees decorated with bird-seed ornaments. Wed thru Sun 9-6. Gen adm \$1.25, children 50¢.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

The Alamo, Alamo Plaza (222-1693). A mission to 1718 and a battlefield in 1836, the Alamo chapel is Texas' most visited historic site. Despite the diminished size (the grounds were reduced over the years), you can still imagine the legendary moments: Travis' last stand, the final battle, the execution of Santa Anna, and Santa Anna's order of no quarter for survivors on the losing side. Mon thru Sat 9-5:30, Sun 10-5:30. Free.

La Villita, S. Presa & Villita (299-8610). This 1850's village of stone, adobe, and caliche is home to a working glassblower, leather maker, German baker, weaver, and jeweler. Open 7 days 10-5. Free.

Market Square, W. Commerce & Santa Rosa (299-8600). Modelled after market square in Guadalajara, Mexico. Days of activity start at 8 a.m. with the morning market. Fri 8 a.m.-1 p.m.: *Fiesta Navideña* with holiday activities through the week. Open 7 days 10-5.

Riverwalk/Paseo del Rio, downtown (227-4262). Three winding miles of bridges, cafés, shops, and tropical plants. During the holidays enjoy the caroling and lighted trees. Open 7 days 24 hours.

El Rancho, ramp on W. Commerce across from La Mission del Rio Hotel, ramp at Casa Rio restaurant, or elevators at Hilton Palacio del Rio, Marriott, and Hyatt Regency.

San Antonio Missions, Established along the San Antonio River between 1718 and 1740, the missions strengthened Hispanic culture in the New World. Franciscans acted as teachers and pastors to the resident Indians. Open 7 days 9-6. Free. Donations accepted.

Mission Concepción, 807 Mission Rd (229-5732). Although the compound is now gone, the oldest stone church in the U.S. has changed little in over two centuries.

Mission San Francisco de la Espada, Espada Rd (627-2064). The structures that remain are the stone chapel, cloisters, and convent. Built in 1710, the Espada acquires system still works.

Mission San José, Roosevelt & San José (922-2731). The spacious Queen of the Missions includes a granary, mill, and Indian quarters. Marachas mass in Churrigueresque-style church each San Juan (plan to arrive early).

Mission San Juan Capistrano, 1st Rd (532-3154). A mixture of reconstructed buildings and ruins raises up the compound.

San Antonio Zoo, 3903 N. St. Mary's: also 3700 block of Broadway south of Witte Museum (734-7113). Cliffside grottos house cats of the world. To the new children's zoo, take a boat ride

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## SAN ANTONIO

through the canal system and see lemon sharks, electric eels, and Gorillas the gorillas. Open 7 days 9:30-5. Gen adm \$4, children \$2, under 3 free. (S)

**Southwest Craft Center and Ursuline Gallery.**, 300 Augusta (224-1548). The restored limestone and caliche convent built in 1851 contains studios, luncheon, and gallery. Thru Dec 8: show and sale of handwoven items. Dec 12 thru Jan 13: mixed media construction and installation by Betty Seara. Mon thru Fri 10-4, Sat 10-3. Free.

**Spanish Governor's Palace.**, 105 Military Plaza (224-0601). A three-story, palatial by modern standards, the Spanish Colonial residence was the headquarters for Spanish governments in Texas from 1772 to 1822. Mon thru Sun 9-5, Sun 10-5. 25¢-50¢. Sat 10-3. Free.

## NIGHTLIFE

The Beauséjour, 320 Beauséjour at S. Alamo (223-1388). The New Yorker-papered bathroom walls are giving way to a suspiciously trendy shade of teal, but fear not. This black and chrome bar still has a sense of humor: when bands need stage space, black vinyl booths are simply placed in the backyard, surely the only place where you'd feel like you're in a Cadillac saloon yard. Open 7 days 11-2. Cr. (V)

Buddy's Ice Box, 1920 N. Main Ave (734-8550). Indigenous SA: an icehouse-style shop done in awnings and asphalt, where adrenogynous kids compare purchases from the record store next door, the Birkensack sets up smoothies, and neighborhood eccentricities cling to their beers. Mon thru Fri 9 a.m.-midnight, Sun 10-6. Closed Sun. N. (S)

Don Juan's, 1211 N. St. Mary's (223-0940). What happens when the Nashville sound meets the Texas sound? Look! In this warehouse of a honky-tonk (*aka* the New West), three bars, a friendly after-work crowd, and an ample dance floor make for quite the social suburban cowboy. Add buckaroos, yeah! Open Sun thru Fri 5-2, Sat 7-2, with free buffet 5-8. AE, MC, V. (V)

Dou Gays, 2121 N. St. Mary's (223-1211). The latest addition to the St. Mary's strip offers up a dual personality: Be glad: a shady beer garden and stage out back; Los #2 Diners and Stinger for the dancing throngs, while inside a pastel-painted dining room yields a quiet respite. Mon thru Fri 11-2, Sat 5-2. Closed Sun. Cover varies. Cr. (S)

Ernie's Bar, Crockett Hotel, 332 Crockett (224-6000). This is a great place to go for just green. And supposedly a sports bar—read: lots of TVs. But hotel visitors are joined by an amiable mix of locals, who know there's Basa on tap. Happy hour Mon thru Fri 5-7 with free buffet. Open Mon thru Sat 11-2, Sun noon-2. Cr. No cover. (S)

The Esquire, 153 E. Commerce (222-2521). What becomes a legend? Legend! The piano on V, the piano there for a better legend? The piano on V, the piano there for a better legend? Mon thru Fri 7-11, Sat & Sun 7-2, Sun noon-midnight. No cover. N. (S)

Gruene Hall, in Gruene, west of New Braunfels (1-625-0142). At Texas' oldest dance hall, river rats and city folks meet over long-necks and long tables, while Jimmie Gilmore or Butch Hancock hold forth. Thur 3-10, Fri 10-12, Fri noon-midnight, Sat noon-1, Sun noon-10. Cover varies (Sun night free). N. (S) With assistance.

Iries, 7290 Fredericksburg Rd (699-6131). With a first anniversary under its belt, Iries is now a two-story wonderland of a Texan. And, how! From the graffiti-covered walls to the bare wood and bourbon inside and hometown acoustic music outside, are given relaxed and equal footing. Open 7 days 7-11, 11-10, later on weekends. Cover varies. AE, MC, V. (V)

Leon Springs Cafe, 24152 Boerner Stage Rd, take IH 10 west to the Leon Springs Rd exit (169A-312) and turn left toward a Texas. And, here you are: to a fine feather, everything from Texas songwriters to the New Singularity to the World Beat sound and a mind-boggling beer selection. Open 7 days noon-10. Cover varies. Cr. (S)

The Nash, 531 San Pedro (222-1359). Pure genius: an upscale "bar" and grill that really was a drugstore. Ceiling fans cirlcularly spin on Friday and Saturday nights, compliments of the Stucco Iglesias (Foothills). Sunday nights to hear the Harry Westside band, you might quip—quite yippin'. The sun thru Sun 11-2. Closed Mon. Cover varies. N. (S)

Patio Bar & Grill, 2318 Fredericksburg Rd. (733-3535). Open again after noise complaints, this garage-turned-club is doing as strong as ever. As usual, it's necessities only: picnic tables, a decent TV for game day, and a few lights. And then: if some of your peers want to amp up the Sunday nights to hear Harry Westside band, you might quip—quite yippin'. The sun thru Sun 11-2. Closed Mon. Cover varies. N. (S)

Phazzie, 119 El Mio, just off San Pedro (340-8088). Well, it's not Flock of Hairdos. Much too funny. Around a bar made of broken beer bottles and neon, the young disaffected set is making a scene that's best described as studied nonchalance. Dancing in Lung Dances, the West Side girls are the cool ones. And the boys alone, but not so cool that they don't run into the rest room every 20 minutes to check their style. But it's Sun. Sun thru Tue & Thur 8-2; Wed, Fri & Sat 8-4. Cover varies. AE, MC, V. (V)

Playa Santa Maria, 2702 N. St. Mary's (737-1005). Here, amid Mexican beach memorabilia and overzealous and crass narration, upper-class teenagers are "dancing." And, they're home. Whoa! *Uno más!* Mon thru Sat 11-2, Sun til midnight. No cover. Cr. (S)

Replay Sports Lounge, 3621 West Ave (249-6089). Look! It's the Moblie Home from Hell. But wait—in this unlikely setting (paneling, dim lights, carpetlike substance on the walls), Claude Morgan's Monday night jam session attracts the city's best players. Besides, where else can you see Angie Meijer and the Music Masters, the neighborhood darlings, play the same time? Music Fri, Sun & Mon. Open 7 days noon-2. No cover. MC, V. (V)

Taco Land, 103 W. Grayson (223-8460). Under a sprawling live oak outside, under an oppressive cloud of cigarette smoke inside, an underground music scene is thriving. No tabs, but plenty of young, electric angst. Open 7 days 2-2. N. (S)

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## Inner Harbor Hotel

## MAINE:

## Bangor, Sheraton

## Princeton Hotel

## MISSOURI:

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## Moana Hotel

## Molokai, Sheraton

## Molokai Resort

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By LUCILLE BEINHORN  
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## SAN ANTONIO

### RESTAURANTS

**UPDATE** Al Arz, 5137 Fredericksburg Rd at Callaghan to be exciting, yet manage to serve up some of the most comfortable, seduces many a diner in this quiet and shining clean restaurant. The combination place presents three of the most exotic and excellent appetizers, based on wheat, chick peas, and eggplant, like a flat cookie two or three times the size of many a sandwich and a meat, remaining at the top of our list, but close behind is *sheikh almoushi*, a combination of eggplant, nuts, tomato sauce, and meat. Sprightly and friendly service moves the meal along. Daily-dancing Friday and Saturday nights. Bar. Sun thru Thur 11-10, Fri and Sat til 11. Moderate. Cr. Sun thru Thur 11-10, Fri and Sat til 11. Moderate. Bar. Sun thru Thur 11-10, Fri and Sat til 11. Moderate. Cr.

**UPDATE** Alvarado at Arneson River (220-1000). An appeal alone convinced us that the *Anaqua* has not lost its touch. Salmon in tender pastry was quite simply exquisite. Main courses continued the impression: lamb loin at its freshest and sweetbreads of superb quality. Servers and waitstaff were well-trained on duty when we were there. But the dinner room was as dead as ever. *Anaqua* open 7 days 6:30-11, 11-30-2 & 6-11. Sun brunch 11:30-2:30. Reservations recommended. Palm Terrace serves light food daily 11 a.m.-1 p.m. & high tea weekdays 2:30-4. Expensive. Cr. (©) Call ahead.

**Arthur's** 401 Broadway (326-2300). From the rich smells in the air, all-American wine list, there is nothing minimalist here. The menu has a decidedly New Orleans bent, with items such as shrimp Arthur (creole-sauced with tomato and bell pepper) and Carpetbag steak (a fold of flat encasing small, tender fried oysters drizzled with bearnaise). Wind down with one of the homemade desserts, such as chocolate mousse or a slice of peach pie, which included honey, coffee, vanilla, and raspberry. Bar til 2. Sun thru Thur 6-11, Fri & Sat til 11:30. Reservations recommended. Expensive. Cr. (©) Call ahead.

**Cafe du Vin**, 8055 West Ave at Lockhill-Selma (349-4672). In a cafe with an understated European atmosphere, owner Tom Vermer offers a menu that is good looking, more interesting than having a conventional menu. Although dry rice and mushy shellfish creole (with shrimp, scallops, and crab), chicken à la grecque was moist and fresh and included a salalidie mélange of vegetables. Thick-sliced salmon steaks was complemented with citrus, onions, and capers and came to the table in meaty royalty. The lighting, constantly fluctuating from bright to dim, provided a not entirely welcome dramatic effect. Beer & wine. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2:30. Dinner Sun thru Thur 5:30-10, Fri & Sat 5-11. Sun brunch 11:30-2:30. Moderate to expensive. AE, MC, V. (©)

**Cafe Rio**, the Boardwalk, 401 Broadway (822-4233). This seems restaurant perched on the bank of the San Antonio River has quickly gained epicurean prominence. Consider the pleasant surprise of green grapes within wrappings of veal, prosciutto, and gruyère in the veal Caesar; or shrimp sautéed over minted cilantro. Even more surprising is the shrimp cocktail, which comes in a tall, thin glass, filled with Marmaine-citified snatched from diners. Even more remarkable is the chocolate marquise cake (also called Death by Chocolate) made of ladyfingers and chocolate mousse with a splash of coffee. Beer & wine. Lunch Mon thru Thur 11:30-2:30, Dinner Mon thru Thur 5:30-10, Fri & Sat til 11:30. Sun brunch noon-3. Moderate to expensive. Cr.

**Cajun's**, 3122 Ave B west of Mulberry (828-2999). Chef Ronnie Ashley is giving full reign to his affection for the dark, robust flavors of southern Louisiana. Pork and sausage gumbo has the delicate flavor from long slow cooking. Battered and fried in a heavy, peppery batter, frog legs be served with their plentiful crusty bread. Well-tossed frogs' legs and their accompanying Dirty Rice were drawn in a too-buttery Delta sauce on this occasion. Bar. Tue thru Fri 11-2 & 5-11, Sat 11:30-2 & 5-11. Closed Sun. Moderate to expensive. Cr.

**Checkers**, 4909 Broadway (822-6129). When you are good, you deserve to be treated fancy. Checkers is not. Blushing baked with vegetables, one of the few times we have seen it in San Antonio, was firm and delicious; only a sauce might have added interest. American food sets the theme, and includes juicy chicken wings, ribs, and steaks. The food is good, though, and the fresh and careful preparation. The droll year-round Christmas decorations are, for once, apropos. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2. Dinner Mon thru Thur 5:30-10, Fri & Sat til 11. Closed Sun. Lower moderate. Cr.

\* **Chez Arild**, 1919 San Pedro at Woodlawn (732-3203). These cool, formal dining rooms are the best place to go for a meal built around grilling and serving. Our appetizers of tender steamed mushrooms and a ramekin of hot crabmeat (napped with these saucers) were so rich that we considered just moving directly to dessert. Fortunately, we allowed ourselves some sweetbreads with mustard and a choice of tarragon or basil. The addition of Madagascan peppers to intervene. A lemon froth of Floating Island was all we could manage for dessert. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2. Dinner Mon thru Thur 5:30-10, Sat 6:30-10:30. Closed Sun. Reservations a must. Very expensive. AE, MC, V. (©)

**Crumpets**, Cambridge Place, 5800 Broadway (821-5454). Not the sort of place it once was, Crumpets still combines experience and good sense with live entertainment music in the pub but informal dining room. Some of the good sense comes in a dish of tender veal with artichoke hearts in a sprightly lemon sauce, and more of it comes through in the combination奔牛and meat and cheese platters. The former is a mix of meat, cheese, and fruit. Bar. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11-2:30. Dinner Mon thru Thur 5:30-10, Fri & Sat 5-11. Sat & Sun brunch 11-3. Bakery (with coffee) opens at 8 a.m. Upper moderate. Cr. (©)

**Demo's**, 7115 Blanco at Loop 410 (342-2772). In this neat and trim strip shopping setting, food is fast and of the Greek persuasion. Greek salad (beef or shredded lamb) eaten in pita bread and cold soups or with baked potatoes. Salads (including baked french fries) are more reliable choices than complicated selections of spinach and cheese pies (*spanakopita* and *tiropita*), both of which were mushy, or the bluffed stuffed grape leaves. Balikav, at once meatless and crisp, was better. Beer & wine. Mon thru Thur 11-10, Fri & Sat 11, Sun noon-3. Inexpensive. MC, V. (©)

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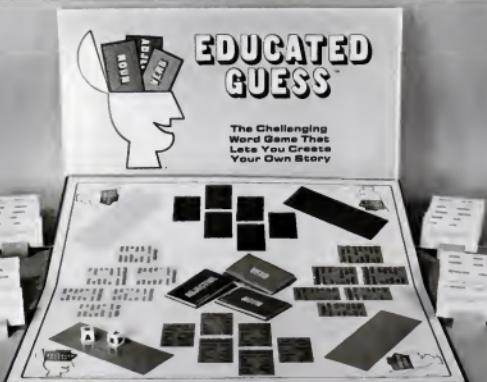
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## SAN ANTONIO

full range of Thai seasonings: a hint of red pepper in the peanut sauce with moo (pork) satay; ragin' serrano in the vinegar dip for Tiger Cries (strips of raw beef); silty green curry over beef, and pungent black pepper and garlic with prawns. The tall iced coffee faced with sweetened condensed milk seemed perfect—relief to our parched lips. Beer & wine. Mon-Sun 11-2-30, Fri 11-2-30, Sat 11-noon-10. Closed Sun. Inexpensive to moderate. AE, MC, V. ☺

**■ BURRITO** Villa Italia, 6322 San Pedro (340-0296). Skip lunch. Maybe skip breakfast. Then enjoy the generosity of the big servings at the city's most notable marriage of quantity and quality. The decor might have been whipped up by the local art school, but no high school kitchen could match the meat-and-leaden vein here. Villa offers a pasta-lover's dream, with cannelloni, lasagne, and manicotti, all variously and richly sauced. The kitchen turns out all pasta right on the spot. Live music the first Sunday of the month (call for times). Beer & wine. Open 5:30-10. Moderate. AE, MC, V. ☺

Zinfandelli's, 341 W. Ashby (734-8334). A short stroll from the San Antonio Little Theatre, Zinfandelli's captures some of the theater crowd. The originality of the Pacific marinade with romesco sauce—Mexican accents but not a Mexican dish—impressed us. We nibbled on a variety of small salads, while the menu every night suggests what is best in the market, whether the ingredient space that recalls the garage formerly here has been softened by fresh paint and more art. Beer & wine. Lunch Mon thru Fri 11:30-2:30. Dinner Mon thru Thur 5:30-10, Fri & Sat till 11. Closed Sun. Moderate. AE, MC, V. ☺

### Along the River

Most of these have entrances on the Riverwalk  
in addition to the addresses given.

The Bayou, 517 N. Presa (223-6403) and 14355 Blanco (492-8971). The light, airy downtown setting is nice for watching the Riverwalk go by, grating on a wide variety of Gulf seafood appetizers. We nibbled on a large portion of ceviche drizzled with mustard-seed-laden shrimp remoulade, cold crab claws soaked in a piquant vinaigrette, shrimp-loaded gumbo, and oysters both raw and Rockefeller. If you simply must continue to follow the meander sideways, the Bayou is where you want to be. Bar, N. Presa: Mon thru Thu 11-30-11, Fri & Sat 11-30-midnight. Sun 5-11. Oyster bar daily 4-midnight. Sat till 11. Blanco: Sun thru Thur 11-30-11, Fri & Sat till 11. No reservations. Moderate. Cr.

Boudreaux's, 421 E. Commerce (224-8484). Cajun bravado characterizes the food, which includes cafe beans and its own snack in the middle of Riverwalk shrimp. Shrimp étouffée (steamed with pecan rice pilaf) and sweet potato-pecan pie displayed the hearty virtues of this purveyor cuisine. They succeeded better than the seafood gumbo (shrimp pasty from overcooking) or Austin Louisiana (a mirepoix of vegetables, beans, and rice) or the ribs on the grill in spite of being heaped with gobs of gooey, sweet sauce. Bar, Sun thru Thur 11-11, Fri & Sat till midnight. AE, MC, V. ☺

Calico Cat Tea Room, 304 N. Presa (226-4923). Rarely does an owner stamp a restaurant as clearly as Yvonne Woods does this one. The provender runs to the likes of refreshingly cilantro-laced gazpacho, the best sandwich we've had (turkey and chicken), a tartar meat salad, and soufflés extend the bakery theme wherever you choose is likely to be freshly cooked, and just a little different from the average. The poster-covered interior of this casual tearoom always looks marginally unfinished. Mon thru Sat 11-4. Closed Sun. Inexpensive. ☺

**■ BURRITO** La Capriata, La Mariposa del Rio Hotel, 112 Presa at St. Paul (225-2581). The gracious setting beside the Riverwalk and the imaginative menu emphasizing Southwestern foods tend to make for high expectations in this hotel dining room. On this occasion those expectations were dashed by unconvincing service, a lack of flavor in 10 items (omelets, casseroles or cocktails) and less-than-excellent food preparation—ice pockets in the broccoli. Fortunately, escargots with green chili pesto, ribeye steak with tomato chutney, and grilled swordfish (stained with a bit of red wine) were good. Bar, Sun 11-30-11. Closed Sun thru Thur 6-10-30, Fri & Sat till 11. Sun brunch 11-30-20. Expensive. Cr. ☺ With reservations. (El Capriata, elsewhere in the hotel, serve breakfast and border specialties at lunch.)

Little Rhine Steakhouse, 231 S. Alamo (225-2111). Visits to other restaurants indicate an upturn in Riverwalk food. Here it has always been good, with the beef steaks (thin-cut, medium rare, and lamb chops that you can't stop eating) the prime cut of choice. The butterbean salad and absence of sauces do not particularly add to the sophistication. Prices, alas, are what you'd expect from a quasi-historic rock house in the tourist area. Bar. Open 7 days 5-11. Reservations suggested. Moderate to expensive. Cr.

### This Month Small, new, or offbeat places to try

El Mirador, 2734 S. St. Mary's at Russell (736-6666). When Paul Prudhomme, the acknowledged patriarch of barbecue, opened his first restaurant like Huey's will attest to his influence. A new addition to restaurant row along St. Mary's, St. Huey's is happily dishing up blackened redfish at its spicy best, a dark and animated atmosphere, and a menu that includes a few surprises. The signature since the last showed the bite of Cajun cooking. A restored 1890's building complements the basic but inspired food. (Incidentally, the bar and front dining room for smokers can get pretty noisy, though the beer is always hazy.) Bar, L. Mon thru Thur 11-30-11, Fri & Sat 11-30-midnight. Sun 5:30-11. Moderate. Cr. ☺ With assistance; unpaved parking lot. \*

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# REPORTER

BY DICK J. REAVIS



*After Alarma!, the relentless Santos came up with El Arma!, more gory photos of killers and corpses, and headlines like HE DIED IN A SEWER!*

## TWO-HEADED AND HEADLESS

*Banned in Mexico, the pulpy tradition of sensational crime magazines lives on—and flourishes—in Laredo.*

The *National Enquirer*, the *Star*, *True Detective*, and even the old *Police Gazette* can take a back seat. The most tasteless national publication in America is a newcomer, *El Arma!*, a Spanish-language weekly edited in Laredo and printed in San Antonio. Nothing else even comes close.

A scowling wife-stabber with butcher knife in hand, the charred corpse of an accident victim, a suicidal mother in a white smock spattered with the crimson blood of her wrists—these are the figures that stare at you in full color on the cov-

ers of *El Arma!* The magazine lures readers into stories with headlines like HE DIED IN A SEWER! or THEY LEFT HIM WITHOUT A HEAD! and delivers partisan, morally certain reportage, in which accused felons and ghouls are described as "nauseating," "demonic," and "bestial." Its strongest, if most contradictory, comment in recent weeks went to a Juárez man accused of killing his eighty-year-old mother. *El Arma!* in all subjectivity described the accused man as the "son of the devil."

*El Arma!* is a magazine of the two-

headed and the headless, a freak show in print. It is also an American continuation of the pulpy tradition of Mexico's crime publications, which print confessions by the accused and photographs of staged reenactments of the supposed crimes. All magazines of the ilk—and a year ago there were a half-dozen in Mexico—publish sensational crime reports, accounts of airplane crashes and other tragedies, girlie photos, and columns of advice to the lonely. The most successful of them, Mexico City's *Alarma!*, which until last spring sold more than a million copies a week, also ran news from Mexico's macabre 1910 revolution. Not to be outdone, *El Arma!* has hired Félix García, a former *Laredo News* sportswriter and a graduate of the UT-Austin school of journalism, as publisher and historian (one of García's recent stories was headlined: PRETEND-



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## HAPPY BIRTHPLACE, SAM

**O**n a warm September Sunday in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, about four hundred people gathered on a hillside near Lexington to pay their respects to Sam Houston at a monument marking his birthplace. The crowd was split evenly between Virginians and Texans, and it was easy to tell them apart. In the presence of history, which hung heavy in the air like the haze over the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains, the Virginians were hushed and reverent. The Texans were not.

For the Virginians, the ceremony lasted an hour. For the Texans, it lasted a weekend. The affair was the brainchild of Don Kennard, a Fort Worth state senator in the sixties who now lives near Washington. Kennard specializes in throwing historical parties, such as a 1983 centennial celebration of the last Indian battle in Texas. When he heard two years ago that the original Houston birthplace marker had been vandalized, he spotted the opportunity for another bash and started raising funds for a replacement.

The Texans gathered on Saturday night at a country inn. Eight-year-old Timothy Houston Daniel of Liberty, a direct descendant of two governors (grandson of Price, great-great-great-grandson of Sam Houston), worked the crowd, announcing his intention to be governor some day. Congressman Charles Wilson of Lufkin eyed him warily. "Just about the time I get to be chairman of the Appropriations Committee, he'll be old enough to run against me," Wilson said. The next day, during a brunch at Virginia Military Institute, the Texans hastened to interrogate Texas A&M cadets who would serve as a color guard at the dedication. Had the Aggie football team lost to LSU? "No sir," a cadet answered. "They were outscored."

At the ceremony old Sam posed a problem for the Virginia speakers. There was the uh, drinking and uh, womanizing and er, quickly annulled marriage, and it didn't help that he opposed secession. One speaker talked entirely about Sam's father. The opening prayer avoided the issue of Sam's character altogether. The benediction grappled with it and lost. But the Texas speakers glorified it at every opportunity.

Finally Charlotte Williams Darby of Houston unveiled the marker. A great-granddaughter of Sam Houston, she had unveiled the previous marker in 1927. The new monument was a 38,000-pound block of granite from the same quarry that had supplied the stone for the Texas Capitol. Surrounding the rough-hewn, eight-foot marker was an iron fence that bore a small plaque reading, "Donated by the Sam Houston Ruritan Club." It was a nice gesture by a Lexington service club, but the Texans didn't like it. The plaque made it seem as if the entire monument, not just the fence, had been put there by Virginians. As the crowd drifted away, the Texans plotted to drive out on a moonless night and take a hacksaw to the offending plaque.

PAUL BURKA

ING TO BE DRUNK, GUARDO AMBUSHED AND KILLED ZAPATA!). The similarity between *El Arma!* and *Alarma!* goes beyond headlines and the sounds of their names, and therein lies a shaggy dog tale about Mexico, where publications and politics are rarely what they seem.

*Alarma!*, for 21 years Mexico's leading weekly, was suppressed last spring during a government drive against pornography. *Alarma!* may have been *pornographic*, but *pornographic* it wasn't. It didn't publish nude photos (not of the living, anyway), nor did it run sexually explicit stories. It got included on a list of banned publications largely because it was the money-making venture of Publicaciones Llergo, a company that also produced the newsmagazine *Impacto*, a conservative journal that had lately become shrill in its critique of the Mexican federal government. The ban on *Alarma!* didn't break the Llergo financial house, but it did aggravate differences between *Impacto*'s editor, Mario Sojo Acosta, and other stockholders. Taking advantage of a stockholders' dispute last June, policemen occupied *Impacto*'s offices and installed a new editor. *Impacto* was tamed. It now speaks of Mexican officialdom with respect.

The suppression of *Alarma!* and the takeover of *Impacto* put Emilio D. Santos out of a job. The 34-year-old businessman, a native of Mexico, had come to Laredo five years earlier to establish Llergo's American distributorship. With no prospects for an *Alarma!* to import, last July he launched *El Arma!* with his own capital and the help of the distribution company's former employees. Santos' sights were originally set on capturing the former American market of *Alarma!*—consisting of the sales of some 50,000 copies a week in 32 states—but before long, he found that there were no laws to prohibit him from shipping *El Arma!* into Mexico as well. The magazine's U.S. sales have already met its sound-alike's American record—making *El Arma!* the largest-selling Spanish-language weekly in the U.S.—and though the export to Mexico is still in its formative stage, Santos is shipping more than six thousand copies southward every week. Neither Santos nor any other publisher need worry any longer about crime magazines falling under the pornography ban in Mexico; a publisher closely associated with the government has launched *Alarde!*, another knockoff of the content and format of *Alarma!*. No publisher need worry—unless he gets involved in politics.

Santos, however, has plans to do just that. When *Impacto*'s offices were invaded by the police, its leading writers, including José Angel Conchello, the theorist of the Partido Acción Nacional, and Luis Pazos, the Arthur Laffer of Mexico, took out an ad in a Mexico City

daily, declaring their intention to continue criticizing the government, "even from jail or exile." Santos now has in the making a new newsmagazine, *Clamor!*, which, as *El Arma!* has done with *Alarma!*, will draw on the contributors of *Impacto*, even though, Santos says, "some of them will use pen names." Santos insists that he is not a front man for anyone formerly associated with Publicaciones Llergo, but he's fighting former *Impacto* editor Sojo's battles. The big difference is he's fighting on relatively safe terrain, from offices near the Laredo airport, on the north side of the Rio Grande.



Melitproof: the Lynches' Christmas creation.

## HOW TO MAKE A TUMBLEWEED SNOWMAN

First you have to corral your tumbleweeds. Every year in early December *Hudson County Herald* editor Mary Louise Lynch heads out in her pickup from her family's C L Ranch, scouting for shapely specimens. Since she lives in Dell City, a Tumbleweed Belt town nestled west of the Guadalupe Mountains, she doesn't have to look far: half a mile usually yields three likely prospects in graduated sizes. Not just any old tumbleweed will do; Lynch wants a base five or six feet in diameter. Sometimes loose tumbleweeds lodged against fences will suffice, but the handsomest ones tend to be loners still rooted in the West Texas dirt. "If they're kind of off growing by themselves, they have a better shape," advises Lynch. Once the right weeds have been captured and carted back, Lynch's husband, Jim, impales them on a steel reinforcing rod, and Mary spruces them up with pruning shears. Then comes an overall coat of aerosol snow [two or three cans, depending on how big the tumbleweeds are]. Finally, the embellishments: three big buttons and cardboard eyes, spray-painted black and secured with U-shaped coat hanger prongs, plus a three-gallon black plastic nursery-can hat rimmed in cardboard and a red felt bow. The snowmen have stood faithfully at the entry to the Lynches' ranch house drive for more than twelve years, and if Mary has her way, soon all of Dell City will follow suit. "I've been trying to promote a tumbleweed Christmas, with snowmen up and down our main street," she says. "Wouldn't that look great?"

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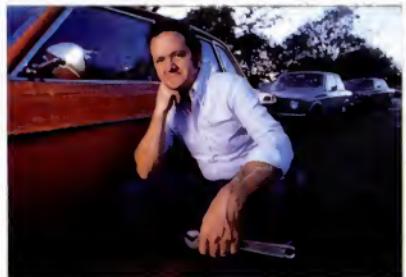
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# ON THE ROAD AGAIN

To reclaim his title as the world's number one Volvo driver, Norbert Lyssy had better step on it.



*Caution and common sense kept Lyssy ahead, till he met a deer.*

Poor Norbert Lyssy. He's got a problem whose dimensions the rest of us can hardly imagine. Call it the frustration of fame or of world ranking, if you will. Lyssy, 47, lives in the tiny Vanderpool-Utopia community, about an hour's drive west of San Antonio. Despite bearing a resemblance to country crooner Conway Twitty, he leads a fairly anonymous, ordinary life. He owns and manages a general store, looks after his wife and kids, and sometimes does mechanical work on cars. He hasn't gone looking for fame; he doesn't even have a telephone. But beginning in 1978, the Volvo North American Corporation spread his name across the nation in full-page magazine ads, and Lyssy became known as the Volvo driver with the world's highest lifetime mileage record. And as late as 1983 he may have been first in global mileage rankings, a man who would have had a place in the *Guinness Book of World Records*, had *Guinness* published current mileage claims. But Lyssy's standing is slipping, and he can't defend himself anymore. In recent Volvo ads, he is credited with a mileage record of 902,000 miles—7000 miles short of the driver in first place. Were it not for bad luck and a few deer, Lyssy would still be number one, and *Guinness* would give him his due. Ah, but all hope is not yet lost. He says that his comeback is on its way.

Norbert Lyssy became a mileage leader in an entirely innocent way. Always a car buff, he decided to satisfy his curiosity about Volvos while living in San Antonio in 1966. He went to a junkyard and bought the motor from a sporty but wrecked 122S model. He took the four-cylinder engine home, disassembled it, and was impressed. ("The main bearings in those cars are huge!" he exclaims.) Next he bought a new red two-door P1800S coupe. As a traveling salesman for a

ladies' hosiery firm, in those days Lyssy drove some 80,000 miles a year (today, he sighs, he averages only about 60,000). Five years later, with 354,000 miles on his car, he wrote Volvo a letter of appreciation. The P1800S, he told the company, "has never failed to get me to my destination," even though "I consistently drive this car at speeds over 80 mph." Volvo sent a polite letter in reply. In 1977, when Lyssy's odometer had registered 732,000 miles, he wrote Volvo again. This time Volvo responded with an advertising barrage. Lyssy was flown to Santa Fe to film a TV commercial and to pose for magazine ads praising his feat. He refused to let a Hollywood stuntman take the wheel for the filming of high-speed road scenes, preferring to do the hairpins himself. One of his rules for auto maintenance, you see, is not to let anyone drive his car but himself. "My wife may have driven the car a couple of times," the storekeeper-mechanic explains, "but that's because when we had our first date, she was more impressed with the car than with me."

Lyssy's other rules for keeping a car on the road are fairly simple ones. He changes the oil in his Volvo every three thousand miles and operates the car on 20-50-weight oil instead of the more common 10-40. "In Texas heat you need the extra viscosity," he says. Lyssy doesn't neglect major engine upkeep either; the motor in his P1800S has been rebuilt three times. But some components, he points out with true fascination, care for themselves. Both the original radio and crankshaft, among other parts, in his 1966 model P1800S are still in working order.

A combination of carefulness, common sense, and luck kept Lyssy ahead in the mileage ratings until June 1983, when on his way from his grocery to his home on FM Road 187, a small herd of deer placed themselves in his path. Lyssy swerved to avoid a collision—and his car flipped, crushing its roof almost to dashboard level. Lyssy was unhurt, and the following morning he sawed the roof away and drove his Volvo home. Then he drove it, roofless, to Denver for restoration by a crack body-shop operator who had once been a San Antonio friend. The P1800S has been sitting in

Denver ever since. Lyssy's friend promises to get around to fixing it, but he hasn't finished yet.

While Lyssy's car languishes, others are passing the former traveling salesman in the mileage record race, which tally is now being kept by the people at *Guinness*. R. L. Bender of Madison, Wisconsin, 87 years old and still working, has logged 1,029,000 miles on his 1956 Cadillac limousine. And early this year Lyssy was surpassed by another Volvoist, a New York schoolteacher who commutes a hundred miles a day and averages 50,000 miles a year in his vintage 1966 P1800S. Norbert Lyssy's pride has been hurt, and his patience has begun to strain. "I'll get my car back by the end of this year, one way or another," he swears. If he does, by his calculations he should be back in first place with Volvo by 1988. And he should be back in the world's leading position by the turn of the decade. If, that is, he'll refrain from driving at speeds in excess of 80 miles per hour, and the deer don't get in his way.

## THE RULES OF THE GAME

Readers of San Antonio's Technicolor twins, the *Express-News* and the *Light*, are being wooed with the sort of journalistic competitiveness that has made the Murdoch (*Express*) and the Hearst (*Light*) papers notorious: Wingo and Bingo numbers and reports. The *Express'* Wingo and the *Light's* Bingo are games much like ordinary charity bingo. They pay cash prizes and build newspaper circulation, especially point-of-sale newsstand circulation. The key to winning, in both games, is to match the numbers on a card with those published in daily issues of the newspapers.

Readers of the *Light* played bingo on blank forms or "cards" printed in the newspaper. *Express* readers became players when they received a game card in the mail—some 500,000 cards were mailed in the San Antonio area—or picked one out of a Sunday edition or asked for one at the newspaper's offices. But the *Light* isn't playing exactly by the rules of newspaper competition, anyway. When the *Express* kicked off its fall Wingo game, the *Light* began publishing its competitor's winning numbers under the headline THAT OTHER PAPER'S NUMBERS IN its morning home edition, which comes off the presses about one-thirty in the morning. For the price of just one paper, *Light* readers can avail themselves of the winning numbers for both newspapers' games.

But the *Light*, which styles itself as San Antonio's high-minded paper, isn't publishing the numbers from the *Express'* game just to save players the cost of buying two daily papers. No, it is publishing them because they are newsworthy. "Once those numbers are published," says *Light* editor Ted Warmbold, "they are news. And we think some people take an interest in it."

D.J.R.



BAH, HUMBUG INDEED. Mr. Scrooge. Only those with the true spirit of Christmas would pay twenty dollars for a bottle of Scotch. But then, THE GLENLIVET Scotch whisky has been made in the same unique way since 1747. And it is a 12-year-old single malt Scotch with unsurpassed smoothness and character. So don't be an old Scrooge this Christmas. In its golden gift canister, The Glenlivet makes the perfect Christmas present. But don't wait till it's too late. Look what happened to Scrooge.

THE GLENLIVET. JUST SLIGHTLY OUT OF REACH.

To send a gift of The Glenlivet, dial 1-800-243-3787.  
Void where prohibited.

# WOOL

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NEW, LASTING, VIBRANT  
COLORS IN AN ARRAY  
OF NEW STYLES...  
NEXT TO YOUR SKIN.

YOU'LL LOVE  
GETTING  
CLOSE  
TO WOOL.



# NEST OF SUBVERSIVES

*Comrades beware! Signs of revolutionary behavior overheard in Dallas: fervent talk of clambakes, lobster boils, snow sleds.*



New England Society of Texas recruiters stop at nothing in their quest for "cross-pollination."

Dick J. Reavis  
P.O. Box 1569  
Austin, TX 78767

The Honorable Jim Mattox  
Attorney General  
State of Texas  
Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear General Mattox:

As Chief Agent of the Texas Bureau of Internal Security Affairs, I feel it is my duty to warn you that a relatively new Dallas organization, the New England Society of Texas, poses an immediate peril to the independence, hallowed traditions, and customs of our native Texans. You will note that the acronym for this organization is NEST, as in "nest of subversives." NEST was founded by, is directed by, and draws its membership from the restless immigrant population of the state. The group's charter declares that the purpose of NEST is "to promote cross-pollination [sic] of the New England and Texan cultures"—a pur-

pose, I suggest, that is on its face subversive. All Texas patriots recognize the need to export our native culture outside our boundaries, of course, but we cannot, as "cross-pollination" so euphemistically hints, allow ourselves to be implanted with alien seed. It is my conclusion that the purpose and activities of NEST make that organization a worthy, indeed necessary, target for action by your office.

Posing as a loyal reporter but keeping secret my role with the Bureau of Internal Security Affairs, I recently questioned more than a dozen NEST members and even managed to witness one of the cabal's meetings. Members of NEST get together, on an informal basis, two Fridays a month for happy hour at Bogies, a North Dallas bar of an otherwise unsullied reputation, and once a month they hold a business meeting, followed by drinks and socializing, at a Dallas country club. They also stage Thanksgiving celebrations, gather to watch televised games of the Boston Celtics, and even pair off for chess,

bridge, and bowling. Their organization publishes a monthly newsletter that encourages attendance at these various events and lists the names of club members who have upcoming birthdays. All of these efforts are aimed at preserving, even fortifying, the alien rites and customs that these immigrants brought with them onto Texas soil.

Gordon Tuthill, 71, of Connecticut, now a Dallas granite supplier, is the gray eminence and founder of NEST. Since the group's start a year ago, he and his cronies, New Englanders all, have recruited more than one hundred active members and have built a base of sympathizers and fellow travelers perhaps three times as large. They have done this by advertising in Dallas newspapers and by placing recruitment cards on the windshields of motor vehicles that pass through Dallas bearing New England license plates (I am attempting to see if the placement of such cards on vehicles driven on state-maintained roadways is in fact legal but as of yet have received no satisfactory answer from DPS). No social contact, however sober or serene its purpose, is above NEST's lust for membership. Business organizations, athletic clubs, churches, and neighborhood groups have all been infiltrated and preyed upon for contacts by NEST recruiters.

Prospective members are seduced to join by the promise of a monthly session for reminiscing about places like Bangor and Concord and New Haven and about such harmless, if unproductive, childhood pursuits as ice fishing, snow sledding, and hockey. Though NEST is quite promiscuous in its recruitment, its day-to-day functioning seems modeled more on the lines of a secret society or a communist organization. Ordinary members are often innocent of the group's more serious aims, and its inner circle is so closely knit that few outsiders have been able to penetrate or even understand it, because the NEST elite talks in an argot as conspiratorial convicts do. In the vocabulary of hard-core NESTers, for example, a ladies' handbag is a "pocket-book," jeans are "dungarees," and a rubber band is an "elastic." When communicating sensitive information, NEST's leaders also speak in what appears to be a deviant accent. They say such things as "Pawk yaw caw and wok."

Leadership in NEST is apparently derived from the ability, foreign to any Texan, to distinguish between clams; either that, or terms like "littleneck," "quahog," and "cherrystone," frequently uttered by leadership types, are actually passwords. Ambitious NEST recruits advance to leadership status by mastering the nearly Masonic lore of preparing



# One of the most at SMU can

Only it's not a freshman. It's a computer. Over \$140,000 worth of equipment representing the latest in computer technology. Plus, a \$200,000 grant for a new circuits laboratory.

AT&T made these donations to SMU's School of Engineering and Applied

Science because we wanted to put back into the state of Texas some of the good we've gotten out of it. And one of the best ways to do that is by offering our help to those who can most use it: the engineers and computer scientists of tomorrow.

The gift to SMU was only part of



# popular pledges me from us.

our computer program, however. In fact, AT&T donated over \$1.8 million in time, money and computer equipment to Texas A&M, Texas Tech, UT, Prairie View A&M and Texas Southern last year. And our pledge is to continue our involvement in the future.

That's AT&T. People and products bringing new energy to Texas.



**AT&T**  
The right choice.

an exotic seafood stew called chowder. My informants say chowder, like Indian peyote, has mind-altering properties. The ingestion of chowder is said to produce a state of heightened awareness of propriety, along with feelings of snootiness and an alleged increased tolerance for extremes of cold.

NEST differs from other subversive organizations in that it has produced very little literature on social or political topics, including Texas. However, I can assure you that its ranks are shot through with malcontents and agitators. "Dallas is still a pretty segregated city," one of its members complained to me. "Because Texas lacks natural scenery, Texans try to replace that with ostentatious homes," another activist said. Regulars of the society believe that public schooling in Texas is under par, that "Texas is a male-dominated society" (can you believe it, they're against that!), and that labor unions should be organized here. Needless to say, our state and our beloved native culture are better off if not exposed to such specious critiques.

The danger that NEST poses to our culture is a present one because the organization has moved from mere grumbling to action. It has, for example, seduced Texans to attend clambakes and lobster boils, activities that bode ill for the state's beef industry. NEST has also

begun holding public meetings at Dallas' Brookhaven Country Club, formerly a respectable native sanctuary. The organization's president may also have become a spotter or finger man for patently sinister Northeastern forces; he is in contact with the people at Yankee Publishing, the foreign corporation based in Dublin, New Hampshire, that recently purchased *Texas Business*, once a part of the loyal native press. Only NEST's leaders know what institutions are targeted as next on their list of subversion.

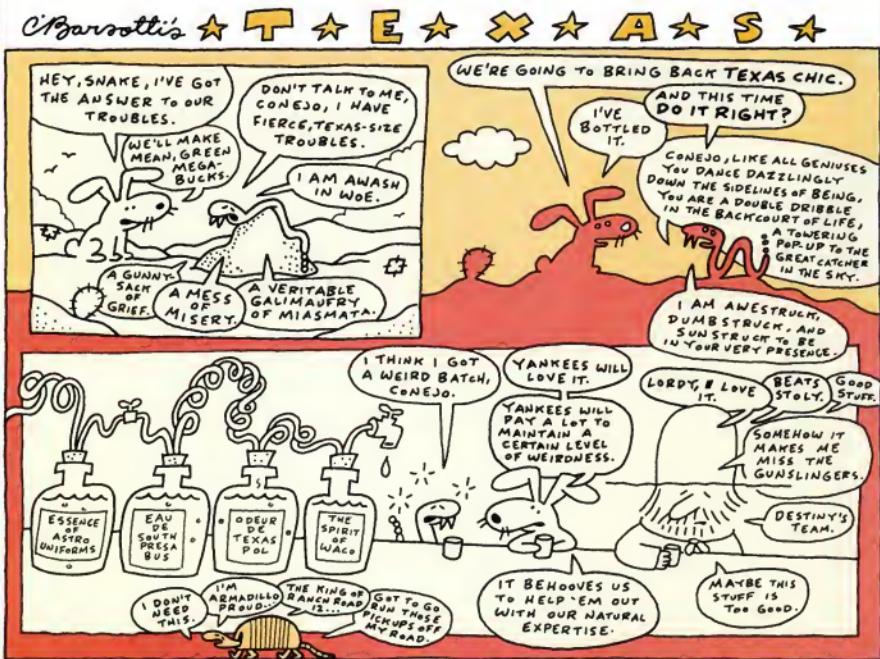
General Mattox, only with reluctance do I conclude that though your office should take action to restrain NEST, it should not, I believe, make any overt or publicly visible moves. Several members and fellow travelers are prominent in the Dallas area. Rhode Islander Patrick O'Brien, for example, is the director of the city's library system. Initiatives against such figures would occasion outcries from the usual do-gooders, Yankee-lovers, and libertarians and would perhaps attract unwanted attention to your department's role in cultural containment.

However, we may be able to adapt the federal experience. As you probably know, the U.S. Attorney General's Office once promulgated a list of organizations considered to be subversive from the federal point of view. This list

included groups like the Ukrainian-American Fraternal Union and the American Croatian Congress, organizations that profess cultural aims analogous to NEST's stated purposes. I therefore suggest that you add NEST to your subversives list and that you recruit intelligence operatives to join its ranks for the purpose of monitoring NEST activities.

I would also suggest that the more seasoned or skilled operatives be urged to explore the possibility of turning NEST to more palatable purposes. I think that the opportunity is there. Most New Englanders, you see, don't like New Yorkers—one of the most numerous alien minorities in Texas—any more than Texans do. NEST members privately confessed this to me. "New Yorkers give all Yankees a bad name," one said. "New Yorkers are pushy and loud and demanding," another told me. If NEST can be influenced by our operatives and appropriate funding to take an anti-New York rather than an anti-Texas direction, with proper monitoring and intervention, it might become what your electorate and your office want all public organizations to be: an asset to the people of Texas.

Sincerely yours,  
Dick J. Reavis  
Chief Agent ♦





"When we took her to the doctor  
we never dreamed she'd be hospitalized."

What you thought was a twenty-four-hour bug turned out to be spinal meningitis. You may be scared, but your child is terrified. Yet, you're able to calm those fears by letting her know you'll be right there with her.

At Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, we understand those feelings. You

need someone you know. The doctor should be someone you trust, along with a hospital you feel comfortable with. We provide that trust to nearly a million and a half Texans every day by giving them the freedom to choose almost any hospital, any doctor. Along with the security of knowing your Blue Cross and Blue Shield card is recognized all across

the United States.

We're taking care of some of your worries, so you can take care of others. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas.



Blue Cross  
and  
Blue Shield  
of Texas, Inc.

We Take Care of Texas

# THE QUIDNUNC

## HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

The ghosts of Texas politics past were roaming the halls at Austin High School during the election of the sophomore class president this fall. A runoff raged between sixteen-year-old Wells White, son of our guy ("He can really get into discussions. You can tell his dad's a politician," says one classmate), and Melissa Alandt, the granddaughter of chief LBJ aide Walter Jenkins. Early candidates were Emily Greenhill, grand-



**Political prodigy** Melissa Alandt, daughter of former state Supreme Court justice Joe Greenhill; Amy Roan, daughter of famed insurance lobbyist Forrest Roan; and Cate Latting, whose father, Joe, is an Austin civil lawyer. In the end, Melissa won the post. "Some people were voting against Wells because his dad's Mark White," says last year's president, Jennie Covert. But Melissa's sister, Suzin, accounts for the victory this way: "Melissa won because she went to all sections of the school, even the smoking section, and said, 'Vote for me!' Lyndon—a frequenter of smoke-filled rooms himself—would have been proud.

## ROCK AND ROLL NEVER FORGETS

**R**ock star and former Eagle Don Henley hasn't forgotten the folks in his hometown of Linden. But a former classmate at Linden Kildare



Ray Campi (l.) with Mae West (and her bodyguard) in 1973.

High School, Edd Hargett, wishes he would. Each time Republican Hargett has run for office (first in 1985 for Congress against Jim Chapman, this year for Texas Senate against Richard Anderson), California Democrat Henley has handed over \$1000 or \$2000 to Hargett's opponent. Is the cash fueling some kind of festering rivalry between Henley, who played in the high school band, and Hargett, who starred on the football team? Nobody's saying. "We were classmates,"

ten his shoelaces wrapped around his tongue once again. This time it's in a special October issue of *Business Week*. In an article called "The Age of the Maverick Is Fast Becoming Legend," the *Week* forecast doom for Texas' next century, because the old establishment is fading and the new generation is gutless. The Quid quotes: "The bloom is off the yellow rose—maybe forever, according to Bernard Weinstein." How would he like a quick trip to the border or a force-fed Dale Carnegie course? The pundit pleads a misunderstanding. "I didn't say that," he says. "But if you need a quote, I can come up with something else cut for you to attribute to me." Say this slowly a hundred times, Bud: "Texas is on the rebound."



**Democrat** Don Henley.

says Hargett, "but we weren't very close." So we gathered.

## THE TASTE OF SHOE LEATHER

**S**MU's blabbermouth, Bernard Weinstein, who is quoted ad nauseam in national newspapers about the fate of the Texas economy, has got-

recording of a smoldering rockabilly song, the Ray Campi ditty called "Caterpillar." Campi sent her a recording of it in the early seventies, and Mae liked the song so much that she joined him in the studio. Their original sound track has been restored with fresh backup by several Austin musicians, including Joe Ely. Too bad we can't get Mae to come back and see us sometime.

• Our favorite 32-year-old millionaire, Paul Zane Pilzer, owner of many jet-set automobiles and a big chunk of the Hunts' downtown Dallas Thanksgiving Tower, has stocked his new playpen with a giant 24-foot, backyard chessboard equipped with 8-foot chessmen. Let's hope his yuppie chess mates can pick up the pieces.

## THE QUIDNUNC'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

If you've admired the stunning necklace assemblage of 115 marquise and pear-shaped diamonds that frequently circles the royal neck of Margot (Mrs. Ross) Perot, here's your chance to adorn yourself similarly. The regal rocks, a diamond-encrusted floral vine, were designed for the late great railroad magnate Jay Gould's daughter-in-law, Florence. It was purchased by the Perots at a 1984 Christie's auction for \$1.2 million. But recently, after a year of toil, J. Ortman jewelers of New York trumpeted a copy of the



*It's the Real Thing.*

**WITH A LITTLE  
ENCOURAGEMENT,  
A YOUNG MIND CAN  
SEE A LONG WAY.**

We are all, when very young, possessors of a splendid gift: a mind that knows no limits. It enables us, in the face of a new experience, to see beyond what is, to what might be. We make discoveries, gain insights and, with time, learn something more of the world around us. And, if we're truly fortunate, we'll never completely let go of the early innocence of mind that keeps us forever curious, and forever open to new ideas.

That's why, since 1976, we've been funding and distributing a series of films about science, economics, and mathematics. Already, millions of students have seen "American Enterprise" and "The Search for Solutions". Soon, many others will see "The Challenge of the Unknown." For more about these films, write to: Phillips Petroleum Company Educational Films, 16-B4, PB Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74004. Because it's our desire to help

young people realize that the only real limits to learning are the ones we make for ourselves.

**Phillips Petroleum Company**



dazzling neck-stravaganza in Dallas. The price? \$650,000. Still too steep? Fake-stone impostors are popping up in Dallas boutiques and garnering a couple thou. Don't worry, Mrs. P., there still ain't nothin' like the real thing.

#### HOUSTON CHUTZPAN

**W**ho says a guilty verdict is a detriment to success? Susan Menke, the chic Houston real estate broker sentenced to four years in stripes for stealing \$50,000 from the Hermann Hospital Estate, recently started a new biz. Out



Menke: life after conviction?

on bail and awaiting appeal, she's running Menke Financial Services, a booming enterprise that will arrange funding for real estate projects across the U.S. Hurry, this offer may not last long!

#### GUITAR VANITIES

**A**ustin guitar sensation Charlie Sexton has that teen angel look. At least the rock band Duran Duran thinks so—so much that it offered Sexton, 18, a post in the band, which he promptly turned down. Why? The band was more interested in Sexton's cool looks than his hot licks. "They told Charlie they had checked him out, and he had the right look," said Sexton's road manager, Wayne Nagel. "Charlie does look like that, but he considers himself a musician first, which he is." I bet you could have fooled Charlie's pom-pom-adoring fans.

#### THE TRUTH ABOUT HOUSTON

**B**laming Houston's troubles on big oil, Montrose, or Mayor Whitmire? Guess again, says celebrated Tibetan doctor Lobsang Rapgay, to whom the social swells

flocked when he held forth at Houston's Institute for Homeopathy twice this fall. Saith the doctor: "The humidity in Houston is the type that makes people allergic, susceptible to yeast conditions, subclinical depressive conditions, and mood swings. It causes many changes in the body's sugar level, making energy go real low in the day and real high at night." So what are we supposed to do? Get night jobs?

#### TALES FROM THE CHAPTER

**D**allas' star bankruptcy lawyer Ed Creel thought he'd get away from the trials of chapters 7, 11, and 13 on an adventurous three-week vacation jaunt through Kenya. Alas, Crocodile Creel, who accidentally caught a croc on his fishing line, discovered that Africa also has the chapters on its best-seller list. "Oh, yes, there was a hotel in Mombasa that was being sold off by a trustee," says Creel. When you deal with folks going broke, you can't ever get far enough away.

#### SANDLOT TACTICS

**R**emember when the Mets lost the first and fourth games of the National League play-offs and accused Astro pitching whiz Mike Scott of scuffing up the baseball for an extra edge? Harris County judge Jon Lindsay does. Before Lindsay, the overseer of the Astrodome, threw out the first ball at the Astros' last stand against the Mets, he paused to hoist it over his head and dramatically scuff it with sandpaper. The crowd went wild, except for



Jon Lindsay roughs it.



Andy Warhol gives Brennan's a New York accent.

National League prez Chub Feeney, who was reportedly not amused. Next time, Jon, let's apply the sander directly to those who thwart our valiant 'Stros!

#### NOT WORDS FROM OUR HERO

**W**hen a dining institution like Brennan's years to be hot and trendy, it trades some Old South magnolia for a bit of SoHo chic. Yes, that's Andy Warhol on Houston TV, selling the stylish on dining at Brennan's: "Tell them Andy sent you." Unfortunately, Andy mispronounces Alex Brennan's name in the spot. "He has an accent and says 'Alec' instead of 'Alex,'" says Brennan's Jon Bacon. Perhaps Andy blessed the gumbo pots with his ever-cool presence during the commercial's shooting? No, the bit was shot in Warhol's New York studios. Oh, well, maybe Warhol's endorsement will make Brennan's world-famous—at least for the requisite fifteen minutes.

#### SO LONG, SESQUI

**A**s the sesquicentennial draws to a close, we must ask, Was it all worth it? Sure, we got James Michener's *Texas* and Talking Head David Byrne's new movie, *True Stories*. But what about the sesquicentennial quilt? You know, the one made by members of a Beaumont government housing project for the elderly and handicapped elderly? When the quilt was stolen by burglars, the media made it the sesqui-symbol of the year. But there's a happy ending: a second quilt has been completed by those determined residents, living proof of their enduring pioneer

spirit. The quilters may be diligent, but they're not crazy; the second quilt is being kept under tight security until its sale. Finally, we can sew up the sesquicentennial and go home.

#### STEVIE RAY'S MISSING WA-WA

**W**e're glad to report some good news concerning the tribulations of Stevie Ray Vaughan, who collapsed from exhaustion in London in October. Stevie, who has traded his hat for a visor and a bathrobe for his first vaca-



Troubled troubadour Vaughan.

tion in five years, had \$17,000 worth of equipment stolen from the Albany County Airport in New York en route to a gig in Canada last August. Police recently recovered most of the loot and made two arrests, but a couple of historic icons are still at large, including a wa-wa pedal that once allegedly belonged to Jimi Hendrix. Please don't worry, Stevie, there are other wa-was in this wild and crazy world. So we advise our favorite troubadour to get some rest and remember, the blues are forever, but you're not. ♦ MARK SEAL



# ABSOLUT ANTICIPATION.

FOR GIFT DELIVERY ANYWHERE CALL 1-800-CHEER-UP (EXCEPT WHERE PROHIBITED BY LAW)  
80 AND 100 PROOF/100% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS (ABSOLUT COUNTRY OF SWEDEN) © 1986 CARILLON IMPORTERS LTD., TEANECK, NJ.

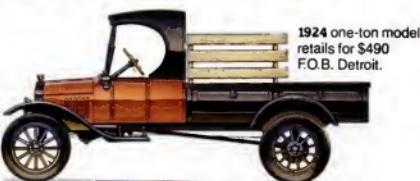
# 70 Years of



1917: Ford enters the truck business to stay.



1919 model trucks are powered by Ford 20-horse Four.



1924 one-ton model retails for \$490 F.O.B. Detroit.



1926 redesigned Model T weighs in at 1,745 lbs.



1929 Ford "A" sets truck sales record good for 19 years.



1933: Famed Ford V-8 engine boosts truck power to 75 HP.



1937 pickup has a split windshield, \$470 price tag.



1940 pickup lines reflect styling of the Ford car.



1942 pickup year ends in February, casualty of WWII.



1946 pickups look like the pre-war models they are.



1948 features square fenders, new cab, spare tire under bed.



1951 has choice of 95-horsepower Six, 100-horse V-8.

For a 2'x3' color "70 Years" poster, send \$2.00 with your name and address to: "70 Years" P.O. Box 10021, Toledo, OH 43699

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# Ford Pickups.



1953 starts modern era; first all-new trucks since WWII.



1967 has all-new design plus strong new components.



1956 model features huge windshield and rear window.



1973 all-new again, with full-depth double-wall box.



1957: New design with Styleside box changes pickups forever.



1975 marks first full year for Ford SuperCab pickups.



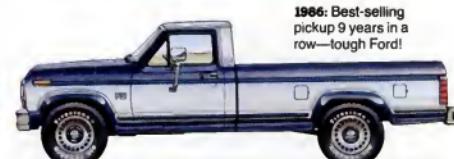
1961 shows new integrated styling, longer wheelbases.



1980 launches the first new trucks of the '80s.



1963 continues Ford choice of Flareside or Styleside body.



1986: Best-selling pickup 9 years in a row—tough Ford!



1965 debuts tough, smooth Twin-I-Beam front suspension.



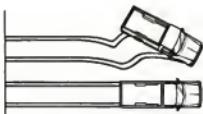
## And now...

PLEASE TURN PAGE

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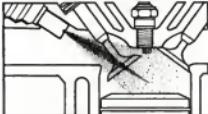
# ...announcing the new 1987 Ford pickup. The new shape of tough:

Now, 70 years of Ford truck toughness packed into one terrific new pickup! New aerodynamic design. New fuel-injected power standard. New rear antilock brakes. For '87, America's best-selling pickup\* gets even better!



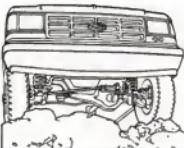
**Rear antilock  
brakes standard.**

Now, a major advance in braking control! All big '87 Ford pickups feature new rear antilock brakes—designed to help you make straight, smooth stops when traveling in 2-wheel drive. Only Ford has them. Standard! These aerodynamic Fords not only look new. They change the way pickups stop, go, ride and drive.



**Multiport  
fuel injection.**

New electronic injectors beef up Ford's 4.9L Six with 20% more horsepower—standard! V-8's range from the most powerful small V-8, the fuel-injected 5.0L... to the biggest gas and diesel engines in any pickup. You get up to 245 horsepower to move payloads big as 5450 lbs. Or to tow over twice that much.\*\*



**Fully adjustable  
suspensions.**

Ford front suspensions have been redesigned for truer tracking, longer tire life. They're also now fully adjustable. And for '87, new gas-pressurized shocks contribute to a ride that's smooth on the road yet firm in rough going. Try the ride of a full-size Ford—America's best-selling pickup for nine straight years.\*



**Luxurious cab  
interiors.**

Inside, you enjoy a new level of comfort and luxury. Behind the sporty A-frame wheel is full instrumentation backed by a dozen labeled indicator lights—all standard. Only Ford offers Regular, SuperCab and Crew Cab.

## **Lifetime Service Guarantee.**

Participating Ford Dealers stand behind their customer paid work, in writing, with a free Lifetime Service Guarantee for as long as you own your Ford car or light truck. Ask to see this guarantee when you visit your participating Ford Dealer.

## **Buckle up—together we can save lives.**

\*Based on latest available manufacturer reported retail deliveries.

\*\*When properly equipped and with a fifth wheel.



## **FORD PICKUP**

**BEST-BUILT AMERICAN TRUCKS**





F-150 4x4 model shown





# How to Get Rich by '96!

EDITED BY EMILY YOFFE

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1986: What a mess. 1996: Whew! We're glad all that's behind us. We knew things would be great once we arrived. You're wondering how to get from here to there? Easy. With this essential guide you'll find out where to put your money now, what savvy business decisions Texans are making today, why it makes sense to open a bank, where Texas' next frontier really is, what lessons can be learned from New York City's turnaround, plus words of wisdom from famous kibitzers.

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**Economics go in cycles. The best way to be ready for better times is to take action today. So, we put the following to 28 Texans who ought to know what they're talking about. (1) The Proposition: You have just been given \$50,000. (2) The Requirement: invest that money in Texas now. (3) The Goal: To be able to look back in ten years and say, "Those were some real smart investments."**

# Advice From The Experts



*Yoshi Fukasawa, Midwestern State University: "First, I would take \$10,000 and open a day care center. Women are going to continue to enter the labor force, so the need for day care will increase."*

## Jerry J. Moore

*Developer, Owner of Jerry J. Moore Investments, Houston*

I WOULD BUY EQUITY IN A SMALL THREE-to-four-unit strip shopping center, something that had a grocery, a dry cleaner, a liquor store, and a washateria. Make sure that at least two of the four tenants have a good track record and that the center's at least ten years old. When you buy the center, put as little equity in it as you can. Assume the previous owners' note; they probably had the mortgage locked in at 8 or 9 per cent.

There are plenty of these centers to pick and choose from now because plenty of people are scared. I would say look in Houston, because that's where people are the most scared. Try to buy at least three centers, but a minimum of two. Then you've got to work your butt off. You can

refurbish and modernize the centers personally, and you and your spouse can maintain them. Within four years your \$50,000 will be worth \$100,000, and everyone will say you were lucky.

## Yoshi Fukasawa

*Director, Bureau of Business and Government Research, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls*

FIRST, I WOULD TAKE \$10,000 AND OPEN A day care center. The population will continue to rise, albeit at a slower rate, over the next ten years. Women are going to continue to enter the labor force, so the need for day care will increase.

Then I would put \$15,000 into an oil company with already-producing wells. Another \$15,000 should go into a high-tech company that's undervalued because of the slump.

I would put \$5000 into an efficient fruit-and-vegetable-farm operation. I think our diet has been changing, but we still have a long way to go to match the diet pattern of California, so fruit and vegetable farmers may do well over the next ten years. I'd put the last \$5000 in a healthy medium-sized Texas bank.

## W. A. Moncrief, Jr.

*Moncrief Oil, Fort Worth*

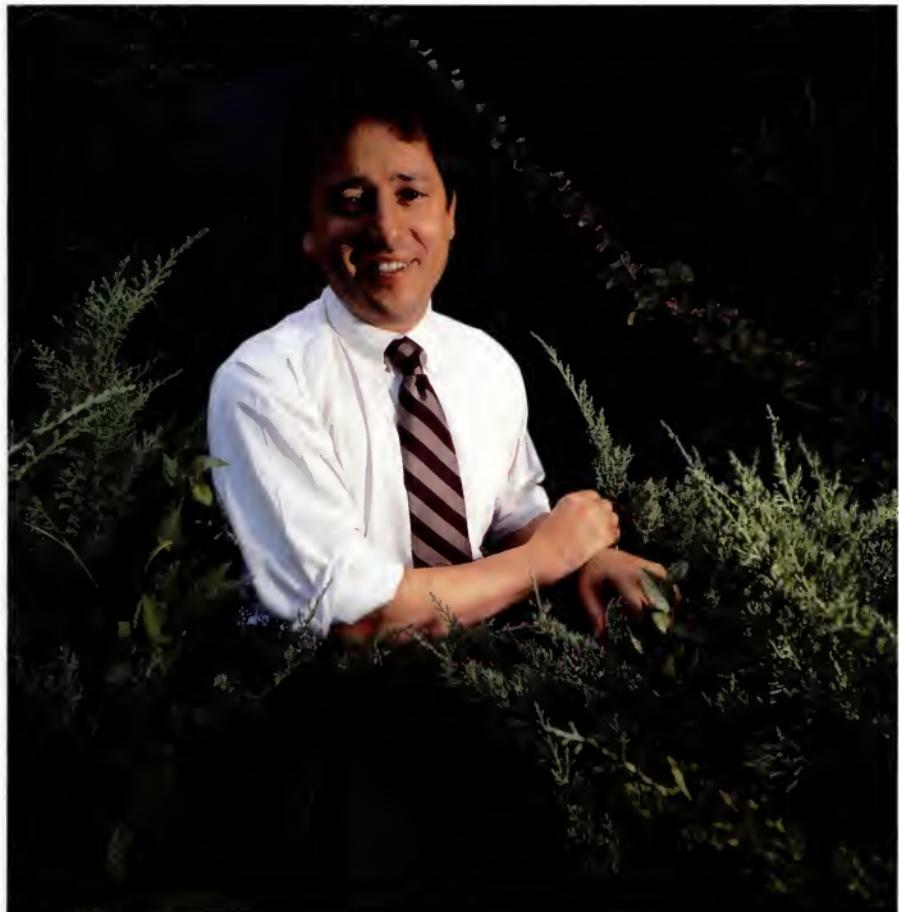
I WOULD BUY \$20,000 WORTH OF STOCK IN both Texas Commerce Bank and Republic-Bank and put \$10,000 in InterFirst. I think these Texas banks are going to be taken over by somebody in New York or California, and when that happens you're going to make a profit pretty quickly.

## Robert Barnstone

*Developer and Investor, President of the Barnstone Company, Austin*

TEXAS' MAIN PROBLEM IS THAT IT HAS BEEN too asset-based: real estate, oil, and in the old days, land and cattle. True wealth is created by trade—look at New York, Los Angeles, Hong Kong. One of the greatest advantages Texas has is its proximity to Mexico, and business along the border has always been trade-oriented. Even though the Mexican economy is down, there are still good opportunities. For example, the border has become the international center for trading on the peso, much of it done not out of banks but out of former storefronts. Retailing and wholesaling to serve Latin American demand will always do well and in good times can do spectacularly well.

Texas used to have silly regulations that interstate shippers could not ship intra-state, so it used to be cheaper to ship in merchandise for the Texas market from out of state. This rule was just abolished. So pick a field, contact the retailers here, and ask where the distributor who supplies



*Robert Barnstone, developer: "The thing to do with the \$50,000 is to find a Vietnamese or Korean immigrant and back him on anything he wants to do."*

them is located. Nine times out of ten it will be somebody from out of state. Then contact the manufacturers and get exclusive distributorships to serve the state, and in a sense become a manufacturer's representative for this region.

Of course, the simplest thing to do with the \$50,000 is to find a Vietnamese or Korean immigrant and back him on anything he wants to do.

#### Roy Spence

*President, GSD&M Advertising, Austin*

**I**F YOU OWN A COMPANY, PUT THE \$50,000 in that; invest in something in which you can make your destiny work. If you don't

want to do that, take 50 per cent of the money and put it into real estate. People will look back on 1986 and say, "If I had put money into real estate, it would have quadrupled." I would find a steal in raw land on the fringe of development in a city that's stopped in its tracks because of the downturn in the economy.

I also believe strongly in the upcoming film industry in Texas. I'm not talking just about location shooting, but as an industry here. So I would take \$10,000 and put it into a prudent venture capital fund for film; this is not a write-off, this is to make money. Then I would put \$15,000 in communications. Find some other partners and buy a radio station in a market where the overall economy is hurting, such as Mid-

land. Buy an AM-FM station there and hold on to it. You can really make some money when the economy bounces back and you sell it.

#### Nat Eisenberg

*Economist, Publisher of Main Street Economics Newsletter, Houston*

**I**'M ONE OF AMERICA'S FOREMOST FINANCIAL nerds, and the country is experiencing the revenge of the financial nerds. If someone had \$50,000, I'd say put it in the bank and forget about it. If Texans had taken that approach during the boom, the state would be better off today. Part of what's happened in Texas is that people forgot the



*Boyd Foster, Arrowhead Mills: "Rather than just growing wheat, cotton, and corn, farmers will have to grow new and better crops. We have got a farmer here."*

values their parents taught them. Fifteen years from now, when people look back and talk about the eighties, they'll call it the yuppie depression.

### **Shad Rowe**

*Stockbroker, President of Rowe and Company, Dallas*

**I**F I HAD THE ENERGY, I WOULD BE TRYING to buy mineral royalty interests on shut-in gas wells from starving farmers. The gas will eventually get sold, and since the poor farmers aren't making any money on their royalties now, that might make them willing to sell the royalties at a low price. So I'd be out scouring courthouse records.

### **Geoffrey Raymond**

*Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, Texas Commerce Bancshares, Houston*

**O**NE OF THE AREAS THAT IS VERY ATTRACTIVE is travel and leisure. First of all, the tax reform package will put more money into the hands of consumers. Second, the baby boom generation is getting older, and that means they are likely to spend increasing amounts on leisure. I would buy \$5000 worth of stock in the following companies: Chili's [the Dallas-based restaurant chain], Texas Air, and American Airlines.

Southland Corporation, the owner of 7-Eleven, will also benefit from the desire for greater convenience. Related to the

growth of eating out is the need to achieve better distribution of food and related goods. So buy stock in Houston-based Sysco, the national food-products and restaurant-equipment distributor. The uses for home computers will grow; Compaq, the Houston computer company, will be a survivor.

Insurance looks real attractive over the long term. The more sophisticated people get, the more they realize how important it is to provide for their families. As a result of the tax bill, some insurance vehicles can also be used as tax shelters, which will be increasingly in short supply. So put \$5000 into American General in Houston.

Telecommunications is a major field. If today the norm is two to three phones in



I would concentrate on utilities in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and even to a certain extent in Houston. The other half I would put into Texas bank stocks. With interstate banking on the horizon and things turning around, banks will do very well.

### Boyd Foster

*President, Arrowhead Mills, Hereford*

RATHER THAN JUST GROWING WHEAT, COTTON, and corn, farmers will have to specialize and grow new and better crops. We've had people express an interest in growing herbs that are now being imported. With that kind of specialty item you can gross more on a few acres than you can from a whole field of wheat. What the farmer would do is work out a contract with a distributor. We have a farmer here who is marketing alfalfa sprouts. He's taken a specialty item of growing interest and is doing quite well with it.

### Norman Glickman

*Mike Hogg Professor of Urban Policy,  
Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs,  
University of Texas at Austin*

I WOULD INVEST HALF THE MONEY IN A company that is considered low-tech but that actually uses a lot of high-tech inventions. For example, I would invest in a machine shop that uses laser cutters or computer-driven robots for making equipment. The future of American industry is intimately tied to advances in this area; anything that's manufactured needs machines to make it. With the other half of the money I would get into a consumer business: redfish and shrimp farming.

### Don Hoyte

*Vice President for Economic Development and  
Analysis, John Gray Institute, Beaumont*

I WOULD TAKE THE WHOLE \$50,000 AND BUY some apartments in Austin. The basis of the Austin economy is the university and the government, neither of which is much affected by economic cycles. I'd buy rental apartments, which gets you into the markets for students and faculty and also for people in the Legislature.

### Carol Bennett

*Economist, Price Waterhouse, Houston*

PUT \$10,000 INTO A BUSINESS THAT IS FOCUSED on demographics and located in the Rio Grande Valley: either education and training for the young, or health services or a retirement community for the elderly. Another \$10,000 into a joint venture—in either manufacturing or trade—with a foreign company in Houston. Foreign concerns have been fairly optimistic about

Houston and have a different perspective from that of Americans. For example, two Japanese companies have major projects with drilling companies here, because Japan needs oil. Then put \$10,000 into state or local government municipal bonds. They have attractive interest rates even under the new tax law, and many cities around the state have a good future and are fairly low risk. Another \$10,000 into a biotechnology firm—not necessarily only in the genetic engineering end but also in the equipment and testing end. Finally, \$10,000 into an oil or gas company with large proven reserves, the idea being that those reserves will be worth more in the future than now.

### James S. Smith

*Chief Economist and Acting Director,  
University of Texas Bureau of Business  
Research, Austin*

THE BEST WAY TO MAKE A BUNCH OF MONEY is to start your own business. If you're going to do that, you probably should spend some money on psychological evaluation tests first, and that might help you avoid losing \$50,000. Or you could haunt garage sales and take advantage of others' misfortune. Buy oil rigs, agricultural equipment, real assets that are currently very depressed, and eventually you will be sitting pretty.

If you have any skills at getting a group of folks together, one of your best bets is to organize your own bank in some place that's not overbanked. With branch banking and interstate banking coming simultaneously, everybody who's anybody outside of Texas wants a piece of the action in Texas, and the price of Texas banks is going to go through the roof.

I'm sorely tempted to start a one-hour dry cleaner. In a town of lobbyists and visiting parents, you can hardly find a place to get a suit cleaned in an hour. It's a mundane kind of business, but those are the people who make a fortune—the ones who find a service and do it well.

Then maybe you could buy a box of sesquicentennial souvenirs and put them away for a while.

### Derek Hoggett

*Investment Manager,  
President of Investa, Inc., Houston*

IF I WERE A YOUNG PERSON, I WOULD PUT it in a start-up venture. The risks are the most, but the rewards are the highest. Look at a company that's developing an informational data base—that's the way to become the Houston Lighting and Power of software. You have thousands of subscribers sending in \$10 to \$15 every month. That's what I'm involved in—selling high tech to millions of people at a low price, not designing better computers. A breakthrough in hardware is short-lived

*"marketing alfalfa sprouts and doing quite well with it."*

every home, why not one phone in every car? Buy Southwestern Bell, which will become a major factor in mobile phones. Finally, \$5000 in Texas Instruments. The company will benefit as we become more sophisticated in our use of electronic devices.

### Timothy Roth

*A. B. Templeton Professor of Economics and  
Finance, University of Texas at El Paso*

I WOULD PUT HALF MY MONEY INTO ELECTRIC utility stocks around the state. Texas will continue to grow, and the energy demand is shifting to electricity. So electric utilities will benefit from that growth.



**Frank Ganuchea, investment manager:** "I would put \$10,000 in Fort Worth's Justin Industries. They make boots, bricks, and cooling towers. Put \$10,000 in Southland Corporation, the 7-Eleven people."

because the number of people who can buy it is small. Money is made by products that have a low price and widespread appeal.

If you want to diversify with a long-term, passive investment, buy a piece of land in a smaller city where development will go, in the Hill Country, let's say. Buy land that's not accessible now and sit on it. In ten years there will be a road there, because by 2025 Texas will have a population of 50 million.

### Alejandro Vélez

*Executive Vice President, Laredo Development Foundation, Laredo*

**T**HREE ARE SEVERAL THINGS YOU COULD do with the \$50,000 on the border. One is invest in industrial real estate—warehousing, for example. I know it sounds unreal, but there will be a seller's market because space will be in short supply.

You could also look for a small service business that tailors its skills to the incoming manufacturing industry—specialized janitorial services for the cleaning of machinery, for example. You could also start a business that caters to the needs and whims of people who will be moving here from other parts of the country—a delicatessen, for example. Or tutorial services for children with special academic needs.

### Frank Ganuchea

*Investment Manager, Vice President of MSecurities, Fort Worth*

**W**ITH THE \$50,000, I'D PROBABLY TAKE \$10,000 of it and put it in the Dallas Corporation—the old Overhead Door Company. It went on an acquisition spree that derailed it from its good business in overhead doors. The company has corrected

those problems, and you'll see it come back. Right now its stock is undervalued; it's a low risk with a substantial up side. I would put \$10,000 in Justin Industries here in Fort Worth. They make boots, bricks, and cooling towers. Hughes Tool will be a good one to look at. If you're willing to wait three to five years, \$10,000 invested in this company will do well. Put \$10,000 into Southland Corporation, the 7-Eleven people. Southland just made a deal with Cito. Over three to five years you'll see a substantial return there. The remaining \$10,000 I'd keep liquid for good opportunities that come along.

### Gary Bradley

*Developer, Owner of one quarter of the Houston Rockets, Austin*

**I**D TAKE THE \$50,000 AND PUT THE WHOLE thing into the Rockets. What in Texas has a better-looking ten-year prospect?

### Rick Kneipper

*Lawyer at Jones, Day, Reavis, and Pogar; General Partner of Film Dallas Investment Fund I, Dallas*

**I** WOULD PUT ONE THIRD IN A CAREFULLY selected movie and entertainment investment. One of the few high-risk, high-reward industries left is the movie business, and Texas has a foothold in having a big stake in that. I would look for ongoing enterprises that are carving out well-focused niches in the marketplace—not someone who just wants to make a movie.

With the rest of the money, I would take a contrarian position. I would put one third into oil and gas companies—direct extraction companies, not oil services. Look for publicly held companies whose market prices are trading at a fraction of book

value as demonstrated by their reserves. I would split this between the majors and smaller independents. The other one third I would split between commercial real estate and apartments in Houston and Dallas.

### Preston Pearson

*Former Dallas Cowboy, Partner of Imperial Foods, Dallas*

**I** WOULD NOT INVEST IN OIL AND GAS. I invested in those things in the past, and it was always the other guy who got rich and I had eight dry holes.

What I would do is look into the basics: food, shelter, clothing. I got into a joint venture with a group of people investing in a fast-food restaurant in a good location. I also invested in one of those quick car-lube places. With more and more self-service gas stations, you have to go to someone to get your car tuned and your oil changed, and I think those places will be the wave of the future.

### H. Ross Perot

*Founder of Electronic Data Systems, Dallas*

**I** WOULD GO WITHIN A THOUSAND MILES of that. Too many people would say, "I'm going to do what he says; he's made so much money he's got to be right." I would hate to take on that responsibility.

### Meg Wilson

*Science and Technology Coordinator, Governor's Office, Austin*

**F**IRST, I WOULD PLUNK DOWN \$20,000 IN A company in Bastrop called RBI [Research Biogenetics, Inc.], a biotech company that does human and animal testing. For example, it has a brucellosis kit that makes field-testing possible. The company is also seeking government approval for its fifteen-minute test for the presence of the AIDS virus. I would put another \$20,000 in a similar kind of technology company:



**Meg Wilson, governor's office:** "I would plunk down \$20,000 in a company called RBI—they have a fifteen-minute test for the AIDS virus."

Inland Laboratories in Austin. It does cancer research work, modifying naturally occurring proteins to help fight tumor cells.

With the remaining \$10,000, I would look for a company that is developing conservation technology, such as alcohol-conversion engines for cars or the use of microorganisms to get rid of toxic waste.

### Dean Rindy

*Political Consultant, President of Rindy and Associates, Austin*

I CAN THINK OF THREE BETS THAT PROBABLY won't miss for the society of the mid-nineties. One is a Spanish-language translation firm. The other is a security and protection firm for wealthy people. And the last is an extension of the minor emergency clinic, low-cost legal services trend: storefront psychologists, where you can drive up and have a one-hour session with a certified therapist for \$20.

### Stephanie Coleman

*President, San Antonio Economic Development Foundation, San Antonio*

I WOULD PUT \$25,000 INTO LANCER CORPORATION in San Antonio. This is a company that manufactures soft-drink-dispensing equipment. Its primary client is Coca-Cola, and the company has just gone public. I think it has tremendous potential. I would put \$15,000 into stock in InTex Medical Technologies, also in San Antonio. It manufactures mobility aids for the handicapped. InTex has just come out with the first computerized wheelchair, and there is nothing else like it on the market.

With the remaining \$10,000, I would make a private investment in MCLAS Technologies in San Antonio. This is a start-up company that makes biotech diagnostic devices, such as one that chemically tags proteins.

### Roy Herberger

*Dean, Edwin L. Cox School of Business, Southern Methodist University, Dallas*

IF THE TEXAN WITH THE \$50,000 IS IN THE oil and gas business, I would tell that person to take the money and get an M.B.A. and change professions. An investment in yourself is as good as one in stocks and bonds.

### Pablo Salcido

*Former Director, Department of Economic Development, El Paso*

THESE ARE ABOUT 185 AMERICAN AND JAPANESE and other countries' companies on the other side of the border taking advantage of *maquiladoras* [assembly plants on



*Roy Herberger, dean, Southern Methodist University business school: "I would tell the person to take the money and get an M.B.A. An investment in yourself is as good as one in stocks and bonds."*

the border]. These manufacturers are in need of raw materials and supplies, everything from electronic components and insulation for electrical wire to cardboard boxes. I would find out what supplies are being hauled in from Detroit, for example, and start supplying them from Texas. If you can find your niche, in ten years that business will grow dramatically.

### James K. Owens

*Professor of Finance, West Texas State University, Canyon*

I WOULD DIVIDE THE MONEY INTO FIVE equal parts. Put \$10,000 into Mesa Petroleum. It is ready to go bargain-hunting, and when Mesa makes some acquisitions, I want to be holding its stock. \$10,000 into stock in a real estate investment trust that is acquiring office buildings and warehouses in Dallas and Houston, where the prices are depressed. Put the rest into bank stock: \$10,000 into the National Bank of Amarillo. When we get interstate banking,

buyers are going to be looking for banks that dominate the lending in a small region. \$10,000 into Texas Commerce Bank in Houston. It has been losing a lot of money, but I think it has taken its worst hits and you can buy stock for a bargain price. And \$10,000 in Allied Bancshares Houston or MC Corp Dallas—they've also taken big losses in oil and real estate, and I'm looking for them to recover, not to get bought.

### Liz Carpenter

*Writer, Former Press Secretary to Lady Bird Johnson, Austin*

IF YOU WANT TO BE MAGNANIMOUS AND invest in human beings, this is a great time to invest in creativity. We're loaded with talent, but creativity has never been much rewarded in this state. I would say give the money to the establishment of a writers' center in Austin. It would show we're interested in minds as well as mechanics. And the investment would be paid off when we produce our own James Michener.

**The downturn is here. Oilmen are bailing out, developers are in foreclosure, bankers are counting losses, and farmers are lying fallow. Enter the contrarians. Nothing if not optimists, they are convinced that when an industry has hit rock bottom, that is the time to get in and corner the market. And in Texas how much lower can drilling, building, banking, and farming go?**

# Against the Grain

A TRACTOR'S  
NICE BUT TODAY  
WHAT A FARMER  
REALLY NEEDS IS A  
PERSONAL COM-  
PUTER. A MASTERY  
OF FINANCE, AND  
THE ABILITY  
TO OUTSMART  
THE FEEDS

ONE YEAR AGO MAX Thomas, a dark, husky young man with an animal husbandry degree from West Texas State University, was earning nearly \$50,000 a year as an agricultural loan officer at a Lubbock bank. His job rankled him. The hours were long, the meetings were numbing, and most of all, Thomas didn't like saying no to farmers and stockmen—and by 1985, that was almost all he was doing. The strain of it finally got the best of him. Depressed one evening because earlier that day he had told five farmers that their credit would not be continued, he went drinking. On his way home Thomas passed out at the wheel, and his car rolled into a bar ditch. He woke up in a hospital to discover that he had broken his spine and was temporarily paralyzed. The accident gave him time to think—about his origins, his work, and his future. A few months after he had recovered, in the fall of 1985, Thomas quit his job at the bank.

For seven years as a loan officer, he had watched farmers and cattlemen perish. He had learned just about all that could be learned from their mistakes. Today the 33-year-old Thomas is raising a thousand head of cattle and growing wheat and cotton on the four thousand acres he rents near his home in the Acuff community, just east of Lubbock.

Thomas knows that going into agriculture today seems about as foolhardy as following Bunker Hunt's rules for investing in silver. But Thomas says that a profit can be eked out of the land, even in hard times. Though the cattle market is glutted and herds are being reduced, and though 10 to 20 per cent of the farmers on the South Plains have declared bankruptcy, Thomas plans to succeed. "I don't think that a lot of

the farm failures we've seen are the farmers' fault," Thomas says. "But if a man watches his expenses and thinks over what he wants to do, he *can* make a living at this business."

So far, his plan is paying off. Most of the land Thomas rents was not sown in anything; native grasses and mesquite grew there. Thomas left much of the rough land alone. He seeded 1500 acres in winter wheat and wintered nearly a thousand head of yearling steers on his wheat and grasslands. When his wheat crop matured last

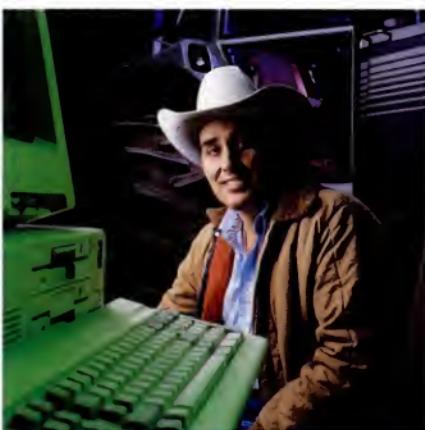
that if he paid to cut his wheat and haul it to an elevator, he would lose money. Leaving his crop in the field saved him work, risk, and worry.

A similar strategy pegged to cost reduction also promises Thomas a startling profit from his 1986 cotton crop. Instead of planting six hundred acres in cotton, which is the maximum allowed on his farm under federal supervision, last spring Thomas planted on 52.8 per cent of his allowable acreage. A full planting—and maximum plantings are an old tradition on the South

Plains—would have brought him about \$68,000, a figure that includes the benefits from federal price-guarantee and loan programs. But when he subtracted from that his own expenses for seed, insect control, weeding, insurance, and harvest, the former banker discovered that planting only half as much cotton promised to bring in \$64,000. "I'm sure that I could die and go to hell and come back, and there would still be cotton planted turnrow to turnrow on the South Plains," Thomas says. "But I think we ought to be careful about that. Cotton isn't near the crop that it used to be."

Thomas' decision to plant 52.8 per cent of his allowable cotton acreage reflects the logical precision of a relatively new farm tool, the personal computer. Thomas, who grew up on a Lubbock County farm, perfected his computer programming skills during his years as a banker, and today he shares a lot of his programs with his neighbors.

Not all his equipment is high-tech. Like any South Plains farmer, Max Thomas owns tractors, planters, discs, and drills, but he didn't buy them new. The surpluses of his ruined neighbors—farm-sale and secondhand equipment—have provided him with machinery for at least half the showroom cost. Thomas borrows money to pay short-term operating expenses, as most farm survivors do. But he hasn't borrowed to buy land. "I don't reckon I'll ever



Last year Max Thomas exchanged his banker's pinstripes for farmer's work clothes. The only thing he didn't trade in was his personal computer.

spring he didn't harvest it. Instead, he let the cattle continue grazing on it until the next planting.

One of the fundamental lessons Thomas learned from his years at the bank is that a farmer has to know how to make federal programs work for him. The trick, Thomas says, consists of understanding the details. For example, Thomas took advantage of a \$20-per-acre federal subsidy for wheat plantings. But there isn't a subsidy for harvest costs, and Thomas calculated



*Now that all the guys with the gold-nugget jewelry are gone, Charlie Langston says the opportunities are wide open for drillers who are ready for a risk.*



With the retail space he already owned in Amarillo 60 to 80 per cent vacant, Mark Davis, Jr., decided to take a gamble and build yet another shopping center. "A developer just can't throw up his hands and quit," Davis says.

own an acre," he says, "because today you can rent it so cheaply."

This year's profits, he estimates, will come to about \$35,000, a figure that, with the tax benefits that accrue to family farmers, makes him nearly as well off as he was at the bank. His wife, Sharon, still works as a teacher's aide, and a planting time Thomas spends sixteen-hour workdays in his field. "When you've got a family like I do, money can't be everything," he says, "but right now, I'm doing good on that front too."

DICK J. REAVIS

"IT IS LIKE J. PAUL Getty says in one of his books I'm currently reading," says Charlie Langston, unbuttoning his Armani sport coat and gazing for a beat at the ceiling of his Turtle Creek condominium. "Buy low, and sell high. And right now this business is the lowest it'll ever be."

Charlie Langston is one of the few remaining practitioners of a vanishing craft: drilling for oil. He knows perfectly well that in these dread latter days, oil is bringing about \$15 a barrel, but the man is as cheerful as a chipmunk. Taking advantage of plummeting drilling costs, bargains in office space, and his own remarkably debt-free financial status, he has managed not only to stay afloat but to prosper. His overhead is so low that he says he can make a profit by selling his oil at \$10 a barrel. That, of course, depends on finding oil in the first place.

"Back when everybody was drilling," he says, "you had to wait to get an available drilling rig. Now you can almost name your own price. So common sense would tell you that now is the time to drill. The only thing that'll happen to me when oil goes back up is I'll be a hero."

Langston is thirty years old and, as befits a young wildcatter, full of beans. He has a flawless blond beard that only enhances the look of innocent expectation in his eyes. He lives in Dallas, but he grew up in Thackerville, Oklahoma, just across the state line. The family ranch had oil wells on it, and young Charlie soon became accustomed to the sight of royalty checks. After he left North Texas State University in 1977, he opened a Western wear store in nearby Gainesville, a good vantage point for observing the workings of the oil business.

"Most of my big spenders were independent oilmen," he recalls. "Obviously, that intrigued me. I asked a lot of questions of those guys, and pretty soon I was leasing land on the side. One lady who came into the store was a widow who owned all the minerals on her land and wanted to sell them. I leased her land for five thousand dollars; sold it a few days later for sixteen thousand dollars to an independent oilman who came in to buy ostrich-skin boots."

Langston finally liquidated his store so he could lease land full time. Around 1982 he started buying into drilling prospects. In those oil-boom days every dentist and attorney in North Texas had some sort of interest in drilling a well. Now, of course, the dentists are back to filling teeth, and the lawyers are filing bankruptcy papers. But Langston is still drilling. He credits his ability to persist in the business to two

things: his freedom from bank debt ("I've always had a phobia about borrowing money") and his restrained lifestyle.

"There are a lot of good, legitimate guys in unfortunate situations now," he says. "But there were a lot of guys before whose lifestyles were based on forty-dollar oil. Now it's gotten back to being a good, simple business. There's a lot of opportunity right now, and you don't have to stumble all over the guys wearing gold-nugget jewelry." Langston's own tastes are temperate but far from ascetic, and in fact his guiding spirit in the oil business is Duke Rudman, an oilman of legendary dash given to wearing plumed hats.

Langston isn't the only oilman to see opportunity where others see desolation. The low drilling costs are starting to attract more and more "bottom-feeders," people who still have the resources to gamble for oil and gas reserves, the value of which—they fervently hope—can only rise.

Langston has a core of six or seven investors, including Rudman—"guys I can call on a moment's notice"—who will generally throw in with him on deal and save him the necessity of borrowing from banks. He has drilled five producing wells in the last year and made some shrewd moves in buying royalty and existing production from various souls caught in the cash crunch.

Right now Langston is drilling two wells, one in Louisiana and the other in Hardeman County on a lease he acquired in a complicated maneuver after the original owner went bankrupt. The second well will cost less than \$200,000 to drill, but the potential reserves, figuring \$12-a-barrel oil, are \$9 million.

The catch, of course, as always, is that Langston and his geologists may be wrong. But that's what wildcatters are for, to take risks, and it's good to know that in this era of dashed hopes and cautious expectations, there are still a few such throwbacks around.

"My life's dedicated to the oil business," Langston declares. "I try to take a vacation, and it just doesn't work. I went down to Puerto Vallarta a while back. They only had one phone at the place I rented, and you couldn't get a line out. I couldn't speak Spanish, so I couldn't even sell any royalty down there. I took six girls with me, and I was still bored."

"No, this is the business for me. I had a geologist that I tried to buy a prospect from two years ago call me up the other day and try to sell me vitamins."

Charlie Langston shakes his head sorrowfully. "No matter how bad my business gets, if I wanted to sell vitamins, I'd been a pharmacist."

STEPHEN HARRIGAN

**OPENING A  
SHOPPING CENTER  
USED TO BE LIKE  
MINTING MONEY.  
NOW DEVELOPERS  
CAN HARDLY GIVE  
AWAY SPACE. BUT  
A BUILDER HAS  
GOT TO KEEP  
BUILDING**

LILLIAN'S, A FAMILY restaurant in Amarillo, has been open only since August, but on this fall afternoon the business is as brisk as the cool Panhandle wind outside. Mark Davis, Jr., is cutting into his steak sandwich and explaining why he decided to go ahead with plans for development of the Tascosa Village shopping center, in which Lillian's is a tenant. Construction on the project began last January, when Texas' economy was reeling from a fresh dose of panic and turbulence as oil prices plummeted into the teens. About the same time as Amarillo's most famous resi-

dent, T. Boone Pickens, was hedging his crude oil reserves on the futures market, Davis was sizing up a 4.9-acre piece of land in South Amarillo and wondering whether he should take a gamble. With his other shopping centers 60 to 80 per cent vacant, forcing him to offer discount rates and other incentives, Davis, 58, had some doubts about committing to a new commercial real estate venture. "But a developer just can't throw up his hands and quit," Davis says. "I just thought we'd have to work a little harder." In the end his need to keep building won out. The first phase of Tascosa Village was completed in April, and the second phase will be completed next month. Phase one, 48,000 square feet, is 93 per cent leased, thanks in part to Davis' son Pat, who acts as leasing agent

for his father's retail development, and his other son, Paul, who manages those properties, including Carpet World, a store that Davis owns and that was Tascosa Village's first tenant. "The reason we went ahead with the project, even though it was obvious that retail space was way overbuilt and that there was a big slow-up in business activity, was that we felt that this was a location that needed to be developed," Davis says.

Behind Davis' decision to develop Tascosa Village is his belief that Amarillo is still growing, no matter how slowly. Amarillo felt the slump a little earlier than much of the rest of the state did. By the end of 1984 developers had already started cutting back, reducing the number of commercial building permits in Amarillo from



*Elizabeth Horne and Jim Schwerdtner opened the door to their new bank during one of Texas' worst slumps. They say the timing couldn't have been better.*

284 in 1983 to just 125 two years later. But the city's latest retail vacancy rates are still at 18 per cent.

"It took guts," says Don Powell, president of the First National Bank of Amarillo, of Davis' decision to begin a project in such a soft market. Powell ought to know. His bank was hard hit by the downturn. "We're not extending credit the way we did five years ago. It's not enough for a developer to be technically sound. With the economy the way it is, you have to know how to analyze the market—and Mark does." Powell says of the man he's been doing business with for twenty years. "We know he has the staying power, the cash flow, liquid assets, but more important, he knows he could be broke tomorrow."

The son of a laundry-truck driver, Davis has lived in Amarillo all his life. He started out in the retail business—selling carpet and home furnishings—and eventually became enamored of commercial real estate development. Security Development Company, which he operates with two other Amarillo businessmen, together with the companies of his two sons, owns or manages 13 office buildings, 7 shopping centers, and 1200 apartments.

Davis has no grand theories for prosperity. "We're country people," he says. "We're not as sophisticated as your developers in Dallas and Austin." But Davis' dress says success. He is clad in a smart suede sport jacket with a crisp button-down shirt that shows off his Virgin Islands tan, and his accessories include a gold necklace, a copper bracelet, ostrich-skin cowboy boots, and a couple of diamond rings. Driving through Amarillo in his Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham d'elegance, making occasional calls on his car phone, Davis gives me a guided tour of other developers' failed projects. Here is a shopping center that's badly located: "This road doesn't go anywhere. There's no residential development here." Another is well located but has poor access: "All the traffic comes this way, and you can get in only from that way." One half-completed center has an out-of-town developer: "You can't just hang a sign out there with a telephone number. When a retailer is looking for space, we hear about it first." The next project shows a misjudgment of Amarillo's growth pattern: "It's too far west, at least three to five years ahead of schedule." Another is wastefully extravagant and has a peculiar tenant mix: "Italianate marble sure is pretty, but it's expensive!" And look, he has put a dentist in there next to a jewelry store! That shows how desperate they are."

Marc Davis is not blaming these retail vacancies on the bad economy. He sees the economic downturn as a catalyst that hastens the demise of inept business. But sometimes even Davis' self-confidence falters. "I keep telling myself, 'It's going to be all right, it's going to be all right,' but sometimes I wonder, 'Well, is it?'"

BARBARA PAULSEN

TEXAS BANKS  
HAVE BEEN HIT  
WITH HOOF-AND-  
MOUTH DISEASE  
BUT CATTLEMEN'S  
STATE BANK BE-  
LIEVES THAT  
THINNING OUT  
THE HERO PUTS  
IT AHEAD

WHY WOULD ANYONE of sound mind and portfolio open a bank in Texas in late 1986? "We were just lucky," says Jim Schwertner, Jr., 35, chairman of the board of the new Cattlemen's State Bank.

A couple of years ago Schwertner, whose family has run a cattle business in largely rural Southeast Austin for three generations, decided he was sick of the interminable drives required for the simplest financial transactions. So he contacted a few friends, mostly business people in his area, with an idea. After three days of phone calls he had \$1.8 million in cash and a board of directors for the first bank in his part of town.

Almost as easy as raising the money necessary to start the bank was getting state approval for its charter. Schwertner and his colleagues could have begun operating within six months of the first calls. But they decided it was worth taking the time to do things right, to put up the kind of building that would bespeak the permanence they were seeking.

Cattlemen's State Bank

("The name is not meant to connote strictly agricultural loans," says Schwertner. "We felt it meant independence, ruggedness, and a willingness to change with the times") opened the doors to its sprawling 23,000-square-foot copper-roofed building in mid-October. But between the time of Schwertner's idea and the first day of business, Texas banks have been hit with the equivalent of hoof-and-mouth disease.

After oil loans started going bad, banks were going to rescue themselves with real estate loans. But a funny thing happened on the way to the bank: real estate went bust too. And please, let's not even mention agriculture. The dire banking situation prompted the quick passage of two major changes in Texas law during this year's special legislative session. One allows out-of-state ownership of Texas banks, the idea being to bring in huge cash reserves from healthier institutions, and the other permits state banks to open branch offices, part of the continuing move toward deregulation.

Schwertner admits that between the time he raised the money in 1984—the capitalization is now \$2.5 million—and the ground breaking for the bank in December 1985, he had some concerns about the direction the economy was taking. "I looked

at myself in the mirror a lot and had a lot of talks with myself," he says. But according to Elizabeth Phillips Horne, 32, the vice chairman of Cattlemen's board, what looks like disaster is actually serendipity. "We've got the soundest banks in Texas," she says. "We've got no bad debts."

"As the economy began to slide, we started to feel it was a blessing in disguise," Schwertner adds. "I would have hated to have started two years ago, because if we had, we would have made some bad loans too."

A nonexistent loan portfolio is a mixed blessing, however. "Part of what they say is true. They have avoided the mistakes, or trap really, of banks that have gotten caught in declining land values," says James Hackney, an Austin lawyer specializing in financial institutions. "But the competition for good customers is quite fierce, and the good loans really aren't there. New banks get the people who have been turned down at other banks."

The people at Cattlemen's think they have a secret weapon that will enable them to attract those few good customers. "It sounds so simple, most folks don't believe it," says Schwertner. "Personal service. People want to go back to knowing their banker. Our bankers will be in the lobby where you can see them."

As far as Kaye-owned banks and branching are concerned, Cattlemen's Bank says, let 'em come. Rancher and real estate investor Thomas Steiner, Jr., 60, who has put nearly half a million dollars into Cattlemen's and is on the board of directors, says, "All that can only help us. A big complaint is that so many of the banks are owned by Dallas and Houston."

Cattlemen's plans to succeed by thinking local—cornering the market in an overlooked part of town. Bank president Gary Valdez, 33, who came to Cattlemen's after eleven years at Texas Commerce Bank, says, "Most successful beginning banks are successful because the directors have financial stability and are

willing to help the business development side." Since most of Cattlemen's directors live and work in Southeast Austin—each with a minimum cash investment of \$50,000—the bank's staff hasn't had trouble persuading them to hustle for business.

Still, there is some nervous anticipation about the risks they're taking. As Elizabeth Horne hustled about before opening day, supervising the final landscaping touches, she said, "This week three more banks closed in Harris County. I just tell everyone I have Alzheimer's." EMILY YOFFE

E  
*Elizabeth*

Phillips Horne, vice  
chairman of the  
board of the new  
Cattlemen's State  
Bank in Austin,  
says that while  
opening a bank in  
today's dire eco-  
nomic climate may  
look like disaster,  
it is actually seren-  
dipity. "We've got  
the soundest bank  
in Texas," she  
says. "We've got  
no bad debts."

Ten years ago Manhattan's skyscrapers resembled mausoleums. The city of New York was about to go belly-up, taking many of its developers along with it. A few people decided that was the time to buy real estate. Back then they were called crazy. Today they are called millionaires.

# Lessons From The Golden Apple

BY MARK SINGER

The bills were falling due for the colossal office-building binge that has transformed the skyline of Manhattan over the past several years. . . . "Today, the rental market is a horror," says Harry Helmsley. It's worst in job-depressed downtown, where leasing is minimal. . . . The total loss undoubtedly approaches a billion dollars. Many of the developers who overbuilt so prodigiously are seeing their equity positions wiped out, and as that happens, the overpermissive lenders who backed them may have to step up to the firing line and take title to structures now worth far less than they cost.

"The Skyscraping Losses in Manhattan Office Buildings,"  
*Fortune*, February 1975

**I**N 1975 THE CITY OF NEW York found itself perilously short of (a) cash and (b) willing lenders. A couple of real estate operators named Joe Gardner and Peter Weisman—whose experience it makes sense to recount because (a) they are emblematic of New York City real estate operators of their time and (b) their office is just around the corner, so to interview them I didn't have to walk far from (c) my apartment, which they sold me—found themselves in uncomfortable economic straits. Today the City of New York is creditworthy and, as municipalities go, solvent. Today Gardner and Weisman are creditworthy and rich. New York being New York, there is no moral to this story. There is, however, an instructive parallel to life in Texas today. And justice probably demands that if things have turned around so dramatically for New York, where many citizens have



New Yorkers Joe Gardner and Peter Weisman feel like they are on top of the world—in the past decade they turned a big debt into a big fortune. Is there something that Texas real estate developers can learn from their experience?

an impressive capacity for rudeness, then Texas, whose citizens' capacity for politeness is matched only by their capacity for optimism, is due for a comeback too.

Nice guys, Gardner and Weisman—ambitious enough, aggressive enough, intelligent, occasionally excitable, but generally affable. When they began doing business together in 1968 as P&J Realty, Gardner was an accountant in his early forties and Weisman was an architect in his early thir-

ties. Specializing in renovations—turning neglected or undervalued small properties in unglamorous Manhattan neighborhoods into middle-market apartment buildings—they managed, during their early years, to accumulate some decent assets and some significant debts. Weisman supervised the design work and the contractors; Gardner handled the financial side. Always they endeavored to leverage themselves to the hilt, investing [ **CONTINUED ON PAGE 204** ]

Mark Singer, author of *Funny Money*, is a staff writer for the *New Yorker*.

**Maybe Texas hasn't done everything right, but at least we are big enough to admit it. Texans are even willing to listen to advice from outsiders. We invited some Yankees and a couple of Californians who make their living by solving economic problems (a few have tackled full-scale financial disasters) to coach from the sidelines. Here are their suggestions on how to fix Texas.**

# Famous Fixers

P A R T O N E

## John Kenneth Galbraith

*Paul M. Warburg Professor of Economics,  
Emeritus, Harvard University,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts*

I SHOULD BE DELIGHTED TO TAKE CHARGE of the Texas economy. One should never be concerned with small problems. First, I would assemble senators and congressmen, however politically backward, to make clear the needed Washington action. This need proceeds from the fact that free, unrestrained markets are tolerable only in free enterprise rhetoric, not in practice. Needed for the two great Texas industries, agriculture and oil, are sensible controls on output. For farmers, the Reagan free-market farm program is an expensive disaster; it must be replaced with firm production controls on basic agricultural products and firm price supports. For oil, a radical step: we should associate ourselves with international efforts to achieve moderate and responsible control of output. Also, of course, we should fill up our petroleum reserves.

More specifically now within one's own state power I would urge with all possible tact a look at the New England, particularly the Massachusetts, economy. Massachusetts has full employment and in metropolitan areas a labor shortage. Incomes are rising; the state budget is balanced with a big surplus, even after taxes have been reduced. The reason is that we have invested heavily in the past in education and other state services and in fairly firm environmental protection. In consequence, we have a stable, highly diversified industry, a strong service and financial sector, considerable employment in education and the arts, and, I am forced to add, a dangerously expanding real estate boom. For the best of the above we pay with both an income tax and a sales tax. Except in political rhetoric, again, people would far rather live with taxes than do without the amenities of life. New England, despite its awful climate, attracts many people who could make their livelihood elsewhere. They do not want to live in central Alabama or even, perhaps, in Midland. Especially important among those so attracted

are business executives who are locating plants; businesses develop where people want to live, a most important fact. For Texas, accordingly, I would urge the strongest steps to strengthen the educational base—elementary schools, high schools, technical schools, the universities—much more along the lines of recent efforts. And I would strengthen public services of all kinds: libraries, recreational areas, the arts, on to police protection and careful environmental controls—all forms of investment in future well-being. For this investment I would then levy the required taxes. Only the congenitally myopic believe that economic development is encouraged by poor services and low taxes. Development is encouraged by the full deployment of all the resources and all the attractions of the modern civilized community.

In the present state of Texas opinion, I would gather, I might not survive my program. That is often the price for being right.

## Arthur Laffer

*Professor of Economics,  
Pepperdine University, Malibu, California;  
Creator of the Laffer Curve*

ONE OF THE DUMBEST THINGS YOU CAN do in a recession is to raise taxes. If you can't run a deficit, cut spending. Don't raise taxes; you'll become like Ohio and Michigan. When oil was booming, that was when you should have raised taxes if you had wanted a cushion, not now.

Texas' performance over the last decades has been astoundingly good. You're not genetically different from other states; you've just had good government policies. Remember that the price of a barrel of oil in 1972 was about \$3.50. If you look at it that way, the price of oil has actually gone up fourfold in fourteen years. That's not bad. What's bad is that it went to \$36 first, then back down to \$14. If it had gone up fourfold from 1972 to today, it would have been wonderful. I expect \$18- to \$20-a-barrel oil in three to four years. Oil will be a major bulwark of your production base, and it should be. The state doesn't need to

concern itself with oil per se; consumers and suppliers will take care of that.

Texas has some nice harbor facilities—make sure you keep those in good shape. And if you have to make cuts in your university system, do it on things that are not critical. Don't destroy everything for a moment's budget.

In California we also share a border with Mexico. Those workers are very important. They provide a great deal of high-quality, low-cost labor. State efforts to stop illegal immigration are a real mistake—these workers are not the problem.

Texas will weather the storm. You'll see some names missing from the roster of the wealthy, but that's good. If you don't have a chance to lose it, what's the fun of making it?

Texas will be just fine if it doesn't raise taxes now and doesn't bail out the losers.

## Felix Rohatyn

*Senior Partner, Lazard Frères and Company;  
Chairman, Municipal Assistance Corporation  
for the City of New York*

YOU CAN'T REALLY COMPARE WHAT'S HAPPENING in Texas now with the crisis we had in New York City ten years ago. Our problems were runaway spending and borrowing superimposed on a contracting economy. Part of your problem is something over which you have no control: the price of oil, which will probably come back up at some point. But there are some general principles about what we did here that are applicable. If it is practical, you may want to look at the notion of amending your constitutional requirement to balance the state budget, because of the emergency nature of the situation. You cannot eviscerate your state services overnight, thus damaging your social and economic structure permanently, because of a temporary decline in the price of oil. The nature of any political or corporate beast is that when times are good, overhead grows. But there is a point beyond which you can't cut without creating a downward cycle. You can't take the short-term view and hack away at everything because of accounting requirements. You also don't have to accept every-



*Professor John Kenneth Galbraith, economist: "Only the congenitally myopic believe that economic development is encouraged by poor services and low taxes."*

thing as being a given. For instance, we had to put a moratorium on some of our notes. You may want to look into financing on a long-term basis as we did with the Municipal Assistance Corporation. You may want your long-term debt tied to the price of oil. So you would issue long-term bonds, the terms of which may in part be tied to the price of oil. If the price comes back, bond holders get paid back more rapidly.

People also have to pay for what they

get. There is no magic. We in New York pay a personal income tax because we demand a certain level of services. A progressive income tax is the most civilized way for those who can afford to pay for services to pay for them.

You learn a lot from bad times. We learned a lot here. You could argue that it was extremely beneficial. The local economy learned that business was something you should like, not treat as evil. We have got a \$20 billion budget in this city, and we

have had surpluses for five years. That's pretty good for supposedly crazy liberals.

#### William Simon

*Former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury*

THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WRONG with Texas whatsoever. I believe Texas is probably the most dynamic state in our country—and there's no prejudice, because I'm from New Jersey.

**Who says you can't get ahead in Texas anymore? Yes, good times create ever-expanding markets for things people never knew they needed. But that doesn't mean hard times don't bring opportunities of their own. Here are some discerning entrepreneurs who have mastered the art of surviving today: they have simply figured out how to make money when no one has any.**

# Making It in the Bust

**ONE DAY A MIDDLE-AGED MANAGER LEFT HIS JOB BECAUSE OF TUMBLING OIL PRICES. THE NEXT DAY HE WAS RICH**

EVEN IN 1986, FRANK Whitworth of Richardson can tell you there's nothing that makes overnight fortunes like the oil business. A year ago Frank was just another working guy. Sure, he and his wife weren't exactly poor: Frank earned \$70,000 as a supervisor of telecommunications at Atlantic Richfield (Arco) in Dallas, and they lived a comfortable, upper-middle-class life. But about all he looked forward to was retiring in two years, when he would pass the magic benchmarks of 55 years of age and 30 years of service to the company. Then last year oil prices started plunging, and events conspired to make everyone else's misfortune Frank Whitworth's windfall. Arco offered Frank a chance to become rich. All he had to do was quit.

As crude prices began their precipitous decline on the New York Mercantile Exchange, large producers like Whitworth's employer instituted across-the-board cost-cutting measures. Arco offered early retirement to its 35,000 employees, aiming to reduce payroll and overhead.

Like most large retirement plans, Arco's was tied to a complex formula involving salary, length of service, and age. The company's proposal was this: if an employee would agree to retire immediately, Arco would sweeten the pot by adding five years of service and five years of age to his annuity chart. For younger employees or older workers with relatively few years of service to the company, the offer was obviously less attractive. And for many employees with respectable figures in each column, early retirement was no bonanza.

But once Frank got to figuring his particular situation, he realized that he had hit

the jackpot. Frank Whitworth is one of those rare Texans who can say with a straight face, "It's true. The drop in the price of oil was the best thing that ever happened to me."

Even in this age of the mega-annuity, Whitworth's numbers were staggering. Had oil stayed at about \$30 a barrel and had he retired at 53, his company-funded annuity would have kicked out about \$150,000, either on a long-term payout or

advantage of nearly every other savings gadget offered by the company during his 28 years of service. For a number of years he had dumped 10 per cent of his yearly earnings into a salary deferral program and 6 per cent into another savings vehicle. He had put an additional 5 per cent into yet another special annuity. And he had taken advantage of employee stock options. On top of that, Arco also tossed in 36 weeks' severance pay. And then there were those four weeks of vacation Frank had accrued. If liquidated, all those funds added up to \$140,000 or so. All he had to do was say, "I'm outta here," and the company would cut him checks totaling about \$433,600.

"I couldn't sign the papers fast enough," he said recently. "It was like, hurry up before I wake up and find it's a dream."

Frank now does a lot of lunch, along with five miles of walking a day, a little golf, and frequent trips with his wife. He is the only middle-aged man I've seen these days who doesn't look as if he has just been kicked in the solar plexus.

So far, his investment strategy has followed the guidelines that have gotten him where he is: being excruciatingly conservative. He simply rolled the annuity money into one whopping personal IRA. He has plopped \$100,000 into tax-free municipal bonds. The rest has gone into blue-chip stocks. "I don't need it yet, so why use it?" he says.

I had walked to our luncheon appointment, and Frank insisted on giving me a ride back to work in his wife's new Cadillac Seville. "Listen," he said as I climbed out of the car, "if you can put in there that I've already got my investment game plan down, and I don't need any more cold calls pumping a new tax-free bond. Since I left, I bet I've spent as much time with those calls as I have playing golf."

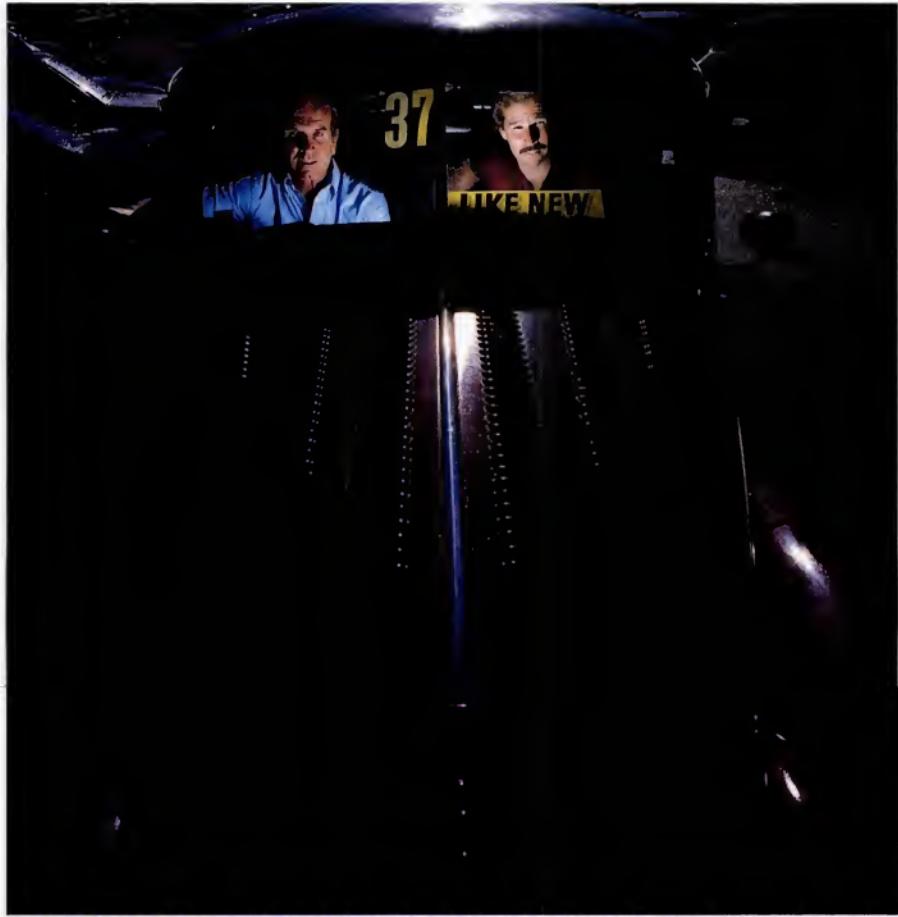
JIM ATKINSON



*Frank Whitworth can afford to put his feet up. Because of the slump his employers wanted him to quit, so they made him an offer he couldn't refuse.*

in a lump sum. But adding five years of service and five years of age drove him further through the critical cusps of 30 and 55 and in the process nearly doubled his booty to \$290,000.

And that was only the beginning. In addition to his basic annuity, Frank had taken



Howard Pharr (l.) and David Hodges sell low-priced heaps to people with no credit. That's what puts Cars 'R' Us in overdrive while competitors sit idle.

THEIR CARS  
LOOK LIKE  
WRECKS. THEIR  
PRICES ARE LOW  
JUST WALK OVER  
TO THEIR LOT  
AND GIVE THEM  
YOUR DOUGH

Hodges isn't worried. Blond and gold-chained, with tinted glasses and a boyish grin, the 33-year-old Hodges is the owner of Cars 'R' Us, a booming used-car business in Austin that's designed to succeed not despite the bust but because of it. Hodges has been selling an average of 45 cars a month—about three times as many as other used-car salesmen with his lot

size—netting \$44,000 during his busiest month, and business is only getting better.

Before David Hodges opened Cars 'R' Us last March, an import outfit at the same location was hawking Mercedes, BMWs, Volvos, and other high-dollar late-model used cars that now represent the softest spot in the market. When that dealer bailed out, Hodges grabbed the prime location on Lamar Boulevard, one of Austin's major arteries. Since then, he has carved a niche in the market. He buys bottom-of-the-line, mostly high-mileage and mid-sized older cars cheap from new-car franchises that are overloaded with trade-ins. Then he sells them to people who are looking for basic transportation. "Our customers are definitely on the lower end of the economic

spectrum," Hodges says. "But we don't treat them like scum." Unable to qualify for financing, his customers are deaf to the enticements of 2.9 per cent car loans. Most of his clients are the working poor, though these days Cars 'R' Us sees some middle-management types with cash-flow problems who have had their fancy cars reposessed.

Cars 'R' Us is what's referred to in the business as a "note lot," selling used cars on a sort of rent-to-own basis. An average down payment runs between \$400 and \$900, but Hodges is eager to make a deal and will let customers pay off the down payment in installments. Over the next year they'll hand over the rest in weekly payments, usually about \$40. Hodges uses

a black binder marked "PLAN" to keep track of the two hundred clients presently on his books. Getting his customers' names in the note binder is the key to what Hodges calls the System: "One of the reasons we're doing so well is that we carry these notes," he explains. Since the down payment is sometimes all Hodges has invested in the car, the payments coming in every week are pure gravy.

"This operation comes close to the profitability of a gambling casino," says Howard Pharr, Hodges' executive sidekick and head repo man. Hodges tells a customer, "I don't sell you a car on your credit but on your ability to pay." He requires no credit history or proof of money in the bank. Many of his customers don't have bank accounts or telephones, let alone MasterCard or Visa. If their cars break down, Hodges will have one of his mechanics fix them, and if they can't afford to pay all of the repair costs, he just adds it to their note. When you buy a car from Hodges, he'll find out when you get paid ("To some we're nursemaids. I have to tell them how to manage their money, to stop going to the bar so much"). If you don't show up to make your payment, he'll consult the "skip sheet" that you filled out when you bought your car and proceed to call your employer, relatives, and friends until he has tracked you down. If he finds out you've quit your job or moved without telling him, he'll repossess your car, sell it again, and make twice as much money.

A prominently displayed sign over Hodges' desk offers a warning: "Our Prices Are Fair, Our Cars Are Neat! If You Miss A Payment, You'll Be Back On Your Feet! Be On Time!!! An even more visible sign labeled "Repo List" hangs over Pharr's desk, listing the cars that need to be picked up with the set of spare keys that they keep on each note car to confiscate the vehicle.

Hodges and Pharr have been working together since they quit their jobs selling new cars at North Point Dodge more than a year ago. "You're looking at two of maybe fifty of the best individual salesmen in the state. You usually don't find that at this level of the business," Hodges says. Calling themselves the Bartles and Jaymes of the used-car business, each will separately tell you the same "good Samaritan anecdotes" about how they help people out, advise them, fix their cars, give alcoholics jobs, cut some slack to a delinquent customer who's been decent. Says Hodges, "We're really soft-hearted guys."

BARBARA PAULSEN

SEE THE  
550 HOUSES. SEE  
THE BANKS FORE-  
CLOSE ON THE  
HOUSES. SEE A  
REALTOR SELL THE  
HOUSES AND  
MAKE MONEY!

WHEN AN ARLINGTON builder named E. A. Hott filed for bankruptcy a year ago, throwing 850 rental houses into foreclosure proceedings, most people in real estate saw it as one more dismal sign of the increasingly dismal times. Lou Smith saw it as an opportunity.

Lou Smith Realty, based in North Dallas, was more accustomed to dealing with \$160,000 homes in Plano than with \$70,000 rental property in Arlington. But it was no time to look down one's nose at business. Smith, a large, energetic woman who started her own realty firm in 1970, quickly contacted the fifteen lenders who were foreclosing on the Hott properties with a proposition: if they would give her exclusive rights to handle the houses, she would sell them fast.

Lending institutions are about as fond of dealing with foreclosed properties as tennis referees are of handling John McEnroe. "It costs us about thirty-seven dollars a day to carry a sixty-thousand-dollar home," says Pat Walz of Gibraltar Savings, one of the lenders on the Hott properties. "The quicker we can sell the property, the better off we are." So most of the lenders signed on, giving Smith contracts to handle 550 of the Hott homes—more than \$35 million worth of real estate. She receives a fee to manage the property and a commission on each sale. As of last January her company was in the business of foreclosed properties in a big way.

Smith did not, to put it kindly, have a lot to work with. Clustered in three neighborhoods built on the southwest Arlington prairie, the three-bedroom, two-bath brick houses lined street after unlandscaped street. "The big question," says Smith, "was how do you create urgency with five hundred and fifty houses that are all alike?"

Smith decided to treat the real estate like a new subdivision. She persuaded the lenders to make repairs on the houses and plant a few bushes, trees, and flowers. They agreed to offer cut-rate financing and low closing costs. Smith opened two on-site sales offices, from which her staff of twelve also managed the rental properties. They fixed prices at between \$65,500 and \$84,800 and allowed no negotiation.

First-time homebuyers were the target. Smith advertised on cable television and in local newspapers with a classic why-rent-when-you-can-own pitch. Her staff lec-

tures prospective buyers on how they can afford to buy before showing them a single house. "It's like selling cars," says Glenda Hammock, who runs the Arlington office. "We only have one brand."

A quarter of the houses sold to tenants, Smith has not renewed many monthly leases in order to prepare the houses for sale. But not all at once. She has deliberately brought a limited number of houses on the market, both to maximize rental income and to maintain the sense of urgency. Says Hammock: "We had a couple come back today and ask, 'Is our house still available?' Like there aren't forty more of them."

Typical of Smith's clientele are Mark and Tenna Burdick. Mark, 27, is a computer technician; Tenna, 21, is a receptionist. The Burdicks signed a contract on a \$68,300 house sight unseen because the property was still occupied. "They're going to fix everything up," says Mark. "It's going to be just like a new house. It's great."

Smith says that she is selling forty Hott houses a month for a total of about \$15 million in gross sales as of this fall. Without the foreclosed real estate, her company would have suffered an 8 per cent drop in total sales. With the Hott houses, Lou Smith Realty has sold \$159 million worth of property as of October—just about even with last year. "A lot of people have settled in and said, 'Well, these are hard times. We just want to survive,'" says Smith. "Our goal is not to survive. We're trying to make money." PETER ELKIND

**O**ur  
customers are  
definitely on the  
lower end of the  
economic spec-  
trum, but we don't  
treat them like  
scum," says  
**David Hodges.**  
But these days  
Cars 'R' Us sees  
more middle-  
management types  
with cash-flow  
problems who  
have had their cars  
repossessed.

FORGET FINDING  
OIL RESERVES. IN  
THE NEW SERVICE  
ECONOMY THE  
REAL MONEY IS IN  
REPACKAGING  
OUT-OF-WORK OIL  
EXECUTIVES

THE VIEW IS HIGHLY satisfactory from Robert B. Chapman's flossy tenth-floor offices in the green-skinned Aligned Bank Plaza in Houston. City hall anchors the composition in its art deco glory, framed by sleekly self-confident skyscrapers. But while the city's bureaucrats agonize about cutting services, the owners of the high rises struggle to lease out space, and their tenant companies pare back to cope with hard times, it's a cheerier story at Chapman's King, Chapman, and Brossard (KCB), a management consulting firm that has doubled in size each year since starting in 1983. During Houston's worst economic trauma since the Depression, KCB has grown from 5 employees to 59, from one office to five in Houston, plus locations in Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Atlanta, and San Diego. Three years ago almost nobody had heard of the firm; now it's finding calls from all over the country.

KCB's dazzling growth came largely through the magic of outplacement consulting, one of the gold-dust phrases of contemporary American business. In the simplest terms, "outplacement" means helping people who get fired or laid off to



*Lou Smith took on \$35 million of unpromising foreclosed real estate and managed to convince hundreds of buyers that it's the hottest property around.*

look for new jobs, although the vocabulary that has sprung up around this relatively new field puts it more delicately. Curly-headed and enthusiastic, Bob Chapman speaks of "departure, usually of an involuntary nature" and of corporate "down-sizing." The companies doing the axing pick up the tab for KCB's services, and the plummeting price of oil has meant that the firm is full up with clients. These days it is more profitable to repackage oil executives than to find oil reserves.

Chapman and his founding partners, Michael P. King and William J. Broussard, handle a blue-chip roster that includes Tenneco, Pennzoil, Conoco, Gulf, Superior, Getty, Occidental, Schlumberger, Hughes Drilling Fluids, and Zapata. "Our typical manager-executive client has worked for the same company for twenty-five, thirty, or forty years. Now, frankly, the company just can't afford to keep them," says Chapman.

What does KCB do for these unfortunate souls? Lots and lots, except actually find the client a new job. A harbinger of the change in the U.S. economy from goods production to services, KCB hopes to turn the once-uncodified job search into a sort of social science. Its consultants help the terminated employees assess their skills, research job opportunities, prepare résumés and letters, and make contacts. They coach clients on interview techniques, on negotiating for good references, on answering sticky questions, and on closing a job offer. They even provide financial planning and mundane necessities like office space and clerical support.

These services do not come cheap. The fee to companies that turn over such employees to KCB is 15 per cent of the employee's annual salary. KCB also counsels executives who are keeping their jobs; the firm routinely advises corporations on how to lay off people without creating a media debacle.

A Tenneco spokesman explains why the company uses outplacement services: "In many cases, these are people you've worked with for years. They're friends; you know their families. You just don't shove them out in the cold. There's nothing you can do to make it right, but outplacement does help." Of course, it isn't benevolence alone that prompts a company to spend big bucks on outplacement; pragmatic considerations apply. Ex-employees who don't feel shafted are less likely to make a beeline for the competition. And the public relations benefits are obvious. Within the company a humane outplacement program mitigates the cancerous would-they-do-that-to-me syndrome; within the business world it means that future recruitment won't be poisoned; within the community it keeps an image-conscious company from looking heartless.

One of KCB's guarantees is that it will work with individual clients until they find jobs, even if they must relocate, which 40 per cent of the firm's current Houston

clients must do (most of their Dallas counterparts, by contrast, can stay put). KCB even offers its clients a warranty of sorts: if the new job doesn't work out, no matter what the reason, the client can return within two more years for free KCB services.

This year, thanks to several "huge, huge" oil company contracts, outplacement will constitute 65 per cent of KCB's revenues (the rest comes from general management consulting). But Bob Chapman sees the surge in the demand for outplacement services bottoming out in Houston; most of the companies that can afford such programs have already signed on. "So many companies here are down to the bone now and less willing to pay for services like ours," says Chapman. Not that he's alarmed; outplacement is booming nationally. Like many businesses that are thriving in the Texas recession, KCB has plugged into both a regional trend (the economic disruption caused by sliding oil prices) and larger, ongoing trends (shifts in the makeup of the American economy and the paring down of large corporations, a movement driven by competition from imports). All of that translates into substantial dislocation in the labor force, which means solid outplacement prospects for KCB long after the Texas bust is just a bad memory.

ALISON COOK

PEOPLE ARE  
DOWN AT THE  
HEEL, SO IT'S IN  
STEP WITH THE  
TIMES TO SAVE  
SOLES. TODAY  
COBLERS CAN'T  
BE LOAFERS

PARKED OUTSIDE THE Colonia's North Shoe Repair, in a small strip shopping center off of Interstate 10 in San Antonio, are a silver Cadillac, a mauve Cadillac, a yellow Suburban, and a brown Volvo. Inside, where the air is thick with the smell of shoe polish and leather, customers line up at the counter, hoping to get at least one more season out of their cowboy boots, pumps, loafers, and wing tips. Taking a break from the workshop in back is Carlos Galindo, a short and fit 53-year-old, who, with his wife, Sudie, owns the shop. "Let's make this quick," he says from behind the register. "I'm a busy man."

"The economy made this what it is. When things slow down, people don't spend money on new shoes. They look in their closets and have their old ones repaired." After 31 years in the business, Galindo knows how to spot a trend. During the summer, for example, things are usually quiet because people switch to sandals and sneakers. But about two years ago Galindo noticed that work wasn't dropping off in the summer; it was increasing, as it has been ever since. He explains: "Customers just keep bringing their shoes back, asking for a complete overhaul. 'Let's go the fourth time around,' they'll say." A few years ago the shop fixed twenty to thirty pairs of shoes a day, and customers could get their shoes back in two to three days.



Bring him your pummeled pumps, your corroded cowboy

"Now I'm booked a week in advance," Galindo says. Recently, he has had to turn customers away because he is so swamped. With five full-time employees, including his son Glen, Galindo repairs eighty to one hundred pairs of shoes a day, mostly brands such as Florsheim, Bandolino, and Bally. "This is a fairly good neighborhood. My regular customers are mostly lawyers and doctors. Some ranchers even come in from Hondo and Uvalde." One customer came in directly from the polo field. Wearing tan riding pants and a turquoise polo shirt, the man removed his riding boots and handed them to Galindo for their regular maintenance. "I don't want to wear these things out," he sighed.

CATHERINE CHADWICK



*ots, your worn-out wing tips. But don't expect to get them repaired while you wait. Since the downturn, Carlos Galindo has been up to his eyeballs in shoes.*

SOME ENCHANTED EVENING  
YOU MAY MEET AN INVESTOR,  
YOU MAY MEET AN INVESTOR WHO BUYS YOUR REO

ly, searching out the next possible encounter. There was furious jotting of names and phone numbers. A few wallflowers drifted about uneasily. A freshman-week college mixer? Nope, a hard-times mixer for all the players in the big new Texas foreclosure and loan workout game, with money instead of sex in the air. It was the climax of a weeklong conference staged by

A CONTAINED HUBBUB arose from the 75 people who were clustered in the Concorde Room of Houston's Lincoln Hotel. Heads were bent together, fervent conversations, and eyeballs swiveled restlessly

the Ontra Companies, a young Austin outfit introducing a new wrinkle to the hard-times conference circuit: an unabashed "market exchange," in which participants were exhorted to quit being shy and try to make a deal.

So there they all were on Friday afternoon, uncertain as teenagers—the bankers with portfolios full of dreaded foreclosed properties, the platoons of professionals who service such properties for the lending industry, the lawyers, developers, accountants, property managers, appraisers, contractors, brokers, leasing agents, even a solitary auctioneer, all scouting for contacts and jobs. Also on hand were the loan workout experts, the blossoming fraternity that specializes in keeping troubled prop-

erties off a bank's foreclosure books, either by renegotiating the original loan or by bringing in new developers who are willing to go in on a restructured deal.

Finally, filling the crowd with nervous anticipation, came the equivalent of the captains of the football team: investors and real estate traders and syndicators—foreigners, Yankees, Californians, even a few Texans—guys who maybe, just maybe, had the bucks and the inclination to take some of those burdensome properties off the lenders' hands. Texas bankers have only recently started coming out of the closet with their REOs ("real estate owned," that is, foreclosed properties). "It used to be no one would even mention them, because no one wanted to admit he

had those problems," confided Carl Young, REO manager for Continental Savings Association, a Houston savings and loan.

The architect of this scene, Ontra Companies president Jack Hazzard, was manifestly pleased that people were actually talking. He pointed out such exotic characters as investor Xavier Hermès of the famous Parisian retail family, deep in conversation with an Austin banker. Over there were a couple of Austin music-scene fixtures turned real estate traders: Charles Trois, once of the 1910 Fruityum Company, and Michael Brovsky, who used to manage Christopher Cross. Then over at the baby grand was Sri Lankan investor Rohan Joseph. For days Hazzard had been dropping hints about these mysterious buyers, including one with a reputed nine-figure net worth. Like a concerned housemother, he had even given the lenders a pep talk, telling them two deals were already in progress. "The success or failure is gonna be how much you open up to them," Hazzard preached. "Some are bringing packages to trade—real estate or camels, I don't know what. It's up to you to visit and see what you can get out of them."

The final result? Hazzard says that ultimately two deals were consummated, but he won't say by whom. One foreign investor has since offered a dozen bargain-basement contracts for REOs to Texas lenders; not one has been accepted. Continental Savings' Young, who brought a fat ring binder of REO properties to the mix-

er, didn't get any offers, but he did get a lot of names and phone numbers. Oh, well. It may take the foreclosure world time to get used to Hazzard-style mixers; meanwhile, the big winner is Ontra itself. Conferences like this one, where participants paid \$500 for each of three sessions, can be money-makers—but it's hard to put a dollar value on the boost in profile that Ontra received.

Hazzard, who owned an Austin mortgage company during the boom years, started Ontra in late 1982 with four employees. Now there are nearly one hundred, most housed in a slick Austin high rise. They do everything from managing property to handling REO sales. Ontra represents not only lenders but also some large buyers. This playing both sides of the fence is the origin of the company's name. Ontra is anglicized from the French *entre*, which means "between."

Hazzard envisions Ontra's moving further into more cerebral areas, such as strategic planning, market research publishing, and conference organizing. But what happens when times get better and the market for help on coping with disaster dries up? By then, says Hazzard, Ontra will have worked itself into an ownership position; the company is buying REOs on behalf of interested investors, acquiring equity in the properties in exchange for its expertise.

For now, though, Hazzard is planning foreclosure conferences in London and Tokyo—and enjoying the down cycle. "It's hard to stand up in front of a group of peo-

pie and tell them there is no good news," he says cheerfully. "But I like finding solutions in difficult, no-win situations. It's a lot more interesting than going out and flipping some land."

ALISON COOK

EXOTIC GOODS  
AT BARGAIN-  
BASEMENT PRICES  
HAVE STRAPPED  
SUBURBANS TO A  
THIRD WORLD  
BEAT

Fiesta Mart is one of the most colorful success stories of Houston's late, great boom years. Everybody likes to tell how Donald Bonham parlayed a couple of funky barrio groceries into a chain of spunky, innovative, larger-than-life stores. How he was among the first to realize what a multiethnic stewpot the city was becoming and to capitalize on it. How his markets were polyglot universes unto themselves, bumptious souks where you could buy clothing, rent a video, make travel plans, eat a taco, lease a house, or browse through flea market trinkets. How among Fiesta's precarious mountains of chiles and weird tubers and shelves crammed with esoteric foodstuffs even Akeme Olajuwon could find what he needed to cure the homesick blues.

Well, that was then, this is now. How is Bonham's twelve-store empire faring in these pinchespun times? Quite nicely, thank you. Bonham reports a slight increase in total sales over a year ago, but the real news is where those sales are rising. "In the inner city, business is kind of flat, but we're holding our own," says Bonham. "But our stores on the fringe have really picked up, especially our Spring Branch store." Both there and at the Southwest Houston flagship store on Bellaire, Bonham says, Fiesta is seeing a lot of new customers—suburbanites who in more prosperous days might have shied away from the store's exuberant Third World aura and bargain-basement image. "The trend is that, imaginary or real, they feel they can economize with us," theorizes Bonham.

Fiesta sales did sag three years ago, when the first oil-price drop set off a wave of unemployment, much of it among the blue-collar workers whom the store has always wooed. Having weathered that slump, Bonham watches today's wave of unemployment among more affluent Houstonians propel a new breed of shopper into his stores.

Bonham, who had expanded cautiously enough to avoid disaster when the downturn hit, has some conservative expansion plans in effect, plans that show he still has his eye on Houston's evolving ethnic growth patterns. In February Fiesta Mart number thirteen will open in the Texas Highway 6 area. This far northwest sector—the land of foreclosures—is in rapid transition as more minority families move in, and Bonham has every intention of being there to meet them.

ALISON COOK



Donald Bonham has found that catering to both Houston's multiethnic shoppers and the formerly affluent keeps Fiesta Mart's mountains of tubers, piles of piñatas, and truckloads of trinkets moving.



Dick Brown frequents the halls of the Capitol, hawking a product that is more in demand than ever before: his complete mastery of the legislative game.

**ONE MAN  
IS MAKING BIG  
BUCKS BY PROMISING  
TO GIVE BOTH  
BUSINESS AND  
GOVERNMENT  
EXACTLY WHAT  
THEY WANT**

profession are more in demand than ever. Brown, you see, is a lobbyist.

Lobbying is one of Texas' few growth industries. Approximately one thousand people registered as lobbyists during the 1986 brief special session of the Legislature, more than triple the number who were registered for the regular session in 1981. A good lobbyist—and Dick Brown is a very good lobbyist—can command six-figure fees for a few months of work. It makes sense that lobbyists are in demand: in the bust everybody is looking for an edge that can make the difference between riches and ruin. Take Texas bankers. A little more than a year ago, when a barrel of oil was still selling in the high twenties, they opposed interstate banking; this year, with oil in the teens and uncollectible loans on their books, they paid lobbyists a reported \$400,000 to get interstate banking through the Legislature.

Before Dick Brown joined the ranks of independent lobbyists, he spent fifteen years as the executive director of the Texas

Municipal League, a job that made him the legislative spokesman for Texas cities. It is not by nature a powerful position. The league cannot make campaign contributions, it cannot endorse candidates, and it's often opposed by some of the state's most powerful interest groups (utilities, labor unions, insurance companies). Yet Brown became one of the Capitol's most influential lobbyists. He compensated for the league's weaknesses by learning every nuance of the legislative game. Once he managed to defeat a bill that would have stripped cities of their ability to set electric rates by forging an unlikely alliance with backers of a wildflowers bill who had been offended by utility lobbyists.

As an independent lobbyist, he has found his meal ticket in the bust. The surest way for a lobbyist to win votes now is to promise to produce money for the state's depleted budget. Few have done so as successfully as Brown has. Last year, for example, he masterminded the repeal of the state's blue law—sought by discount retailers like K-Mart—which promised to provide \$25 million in extra sales tax revenue.

This year Brown led the campaign for a state lottery, backed by a coalition that included the Southland Corporation, whose 7-Eleven stores want to sell lottery tickets. Because of its potential to enrich the treasury, the lottery proposal went further than anyone expected, passing the Senate but

failing by a few votes in the House. Next year Brown will be back for another try.

The more controversial the proposal is, the more money it has to raise for the state. "If the lottery raised only twenty-five million dollars, nobody would even listen to us," Brown says. "But it raises one billion dollars. They've got to listen."

PAUL BURKA

**LAWYERS HAVE  
WRITTEN A NEW  
BOOK THAT STOPS  
BEFORE CHAPTER  
11. IT IS CALLED  
SUE YOUR BANKER.  
IT DOESN'T  
COME CHEAP**

IN SIMPLER TIMES, Suing your banker would have seemed as likely as suing God. But today attorneys skilled at taking lenders to court on behalf of foundering clients are in one of the hottest areas of law. The sue-your-banker craze has gotten lots of play in Texas since the cash crunch set in. Increasingly, desperate borrowers who can't make their payments are going on the attack in court, charging their banks with everything from pulling the plug without sufficient warning to interfering in the borrowers' business. The fun is just beginning in the three Hunt brothers' suit that could result in as much as \$13.2 billion in damages from 23 banks on grounds that the institutions conspired to put the Hunts' oil and drilling firms out of business; that epic

struggle seems guaranteed to spawn even more of the so-called lender liability cases.

A chief catalyst in the sue-your-banker trend is 45-year-old Dallas attorney Tom Max Thomas, an undisputed star of the lender liability universe. A tall, gangly man with an easy Odessa drawl, Thomas brings something besides exhaustive research to his task—namely flamboyant courtroom tactics quite foreign to the staid conduct of your basic business defense lawyer. Thomas' landmark \$18 million judgment in Farah Manufacturing's lawsuit against its El Paso lenders—the first major award in such a case—made him a multimillionaire in 1983 and sent shock waves through the banking and legal communities. Farah's lenders had prevented Willie Farah from returning from semiretirement to the family business by threatening to call the company's loan, even though they had no intention of doing so. In a moment that has passed into lender liability legend, Thomas (who has been known to fall off his chair to distract a jury's attention) had the slightly built Willie demonstrate precisely how the lenders' great big lawyer had pounded the table while threatening to call the loan. The jury quite literally jumped.

The Farah case not only put financial institutions on notice, but it also put lawyers on notice—that there were big bucks to be made. Last year, for instance, Thomas made two million of them. He charges a retainer and an hourly fee (\$200 to \$350 an hour) plus anywhere from a third to a half of the judgment. Calls from embattled borrowers pour into his office from all over the country at a rate of forty to fifty a month. Of these, he might accept two. "Now you've got a whole lot of crummy cases being brought by just about everybody in the world who's got a beef with his banker," says Thomas. "It used to be, 'We can't pay, let's declare bankruptcy.' Now it's 'Let's sue and restructure, and if we can't, then let's declare bankruptcy.' It's a whole new step in the process." With cases like Farah on the books, lenders can no longer find safe refuge in the dry language of their loan documents. Very sticky considerations about interfering in their debtors' business and misrepresenting intentions to call or restructure a loan now apply. Cases have turned on whether the bank seized assets prematurely or gave enough warning before pulling the plug.

Banks and their attorneys are starting to style such cases "lender blackmail." But defense attorneys who represent lenders are profiting from the lender liability boom too. Austin lawyer Jay Hailey, who defends many mortgage lenders, wryly calls the cases "why-did-you-lend-me-all-that-money-when-you-knew-I-couldn't-pay-it-back" suits. He says defense lawyers are still playing catch-up with top borrowers' guns like Thomas. But the defense is already striking back with seminars on how lenders and their lawyers can avoid problems when calling

a note or working out a loan.

Thomas is quick to point out that lender liability cases are "a hard go" to try and that—highly publicized cases aside—the banks still win most of them. But the lender liability field is evolving right along with the bust. Thomas, having handled a number of cases for oil-patch borrowers, is seeing more real estate borrowers bring suit. There has been a recent surge in "failure to fund" cases, in which a lender agrees to make a loan and then reneges. There's no end in sight. ALISON COOK

WHEN A  
\$100,000 HOUSE IS  
AUCTIONED FOR  
\$75,000 THE  
OWNER LOSES THE  
BUYER WINS THE  
AUCTIONEER TAKES  
7 PER CENT

THE FIRST TIME YOU bought a house, the *mano a mano* of the sale—the haggling over price—probably lasted close to a week. Next time, it could all be over in seconds. Real estate auctions are booming in Texas, and thousands of people have gone to an auction in the afternoon and bought a house or condo quicker than it took them to order champagne to celebrate that evening.

As a result of foreclosed mortgages and unsold new properties, a forest of For Sale signs has sprung up on almost every residential street. Enter your friendly auctioneer. David M. Kaufman, the chief executive officer at Kaufman Lasman Associates, has probably brought the gavel down on as many real estate sales in Texas as any other person. Kaufman is based in Chicago, but his business in Texas has gone from none in 1984 to half of his expected \$100 million-plus gross sales in 1986, and Kaufman thinks it is only the beginning.

The idea of real estate auctions as a staple of the state's economy is not as far-fetched as it might sound. "Ninety per cent of the new homes in Australia are sold at auction," Kaufman is fond of pointing out. Property auctions have been catching on in the U.S. since 1981, about the time lending institutions started getting desperate to move foreclosed properties. In the immortal words of one Texas auctioneer, "It's better to take a twenty-five-thousand-dollar hickey on a hundred-thousand-dollar house than not to sell it at all."

The auction in Houston of 150 houses and condos that Kaufman held for Freddie Mac (the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation) on September 13 and 14, which attracted 2000, showed what the future may look like for the average home buyer. In the lobby of the Hyatt Regency hotel on the Katy Freeway, early arrivals were lining up at long tables to register and flash the \$2500 cashier's check required as a deposit should they become buyers.

Perhaps half of the bidders were real estate brokers and investors looking to pick up a dilapidated house to renovate and resell at a tidy profit. Richard Fallin, a broker and apartment property manager,

said, "I've bought fifteen houses this way, and I had hoped to pick up something for six or seven thousand dollars today." Even though everything was selling cheap—perhaps a third under appraised value—he and the other speculators were grouting. "Not as good as the HUD auction a few weeks ago," one grumbled. Louis and Lucy Aparicio, who were living with his parents, watched glumly as the bidding on property number 61, a condo, quickly escalated past their \$15,000 ceiling. By the end of the two-day event, Kaufman had made \$4.36 million for Freddie Mac.

So far, real estate auctions are being used mainly by the big lending institutions and builders, who can afford the auctioneer's commission (Kaufman's is 4 to 7 per cent) and the cost of advertising—\$30,000 to \$150,000, depending on the location and the type of housing. Most of the Texas business has heretofore gone to outsiders with experience, but the Texans are learning fast.

"Real estate auctions are the honey pot of the industry right now," gloats Bob Emley, a San Antonio auctioneer who specializes in horse sales and business liquidations and who is the secretary-treasurer of the Texas Auctioneers Association. "Up till now, I have sold six or seven houses a year, but recently I helped auction a hundred and one homes for the Veterans Administration. In seven to ten years I would like to have a full real estate auction service."

In the short run, though, the biggest change may be in the image of the real estate auction itself. The specter of the Depression, when so many people lost the family homestead, still looms fifty years later. Ironically, the present recession may neutralize that feeling. Because of their anonymity and size, today's mass auctions cause no tears to be shed. Says Eric Piccinini, an administrator of foreclosed properties at Freddie Mac, "We will run numbers and use auctions as long as they work. The impression used to be that auctioned property was something you couldn't sell any other way, but it's not just for losers anymore." PATRICIA SHARPE

THEY MAY NOT  
BE TRAY ELEGANT  
BUT CAFETERIAS  
HAVE ONE THING A  
LOT OF CLASSIER  
RESTAURANTS  
DON'T HAVE:  
CUSTOMERS

WHILE MUCH OF THE Houston business community sits down to an empty plate, at the Cleburne Cafeteria on Bissonnet there's never been a recession. The luncheontime serving line is backed up to the door, and the scritch of knives and forks combines with the ratchet of the adding machine to create a busy hum that doesn't let up until the doors close at two-thirty.

"Business at our Bissonnet store picked up twenty-eight per cent in July and August compared with the same time last year," says George Mickelis, one of the four members of the family that has owned



*George Mickelis admits you don't dine by candlelight at the Cleburne Cafeteria. But who needs candles to see that for \$5.65 you eat like a trencherman?*

and operated the cafeteria since buying it in 1953. (The Cleburne opened its second location almost a year ago in Sugar Land.) "Our number of customers is up because people are trading down. We cater to an older clientele—fifty to sixty-five and over—and that part is steady. But recently, business has been like gangbusters with young families and their children."

While the Cleburne's 28 per cent jump in business exceeds the norm considerably, cafeterias are enjoying good economic health. Susan Hasslocher, the president of the Texas Restaurant Association, says, "There is a noticeable downturn in restaurants with check averages above \$8. The best overall are the ones that charge \$5 to \$8." Rod Garrison, the chief financial

officer for the Piccadilly cafeterias says, "People keep asking me how much we've been hurt by the recession, but I just can't see it." Most of the Piccadilly's 108 units are in Louisiana and Texas, and the business posted net sales of \$206 million for fiscal 1986, up 10 per cent from last year.

"Luby's has been in business for thirty-nine years," says Vernon Schrader, the vice president for marketing at the chain's headquarters in San Antonio, "and we know that in slumps we always do well." Five Luby's cafeterias are under construction for 1987, with several more on the drawing board.

There's no secret to what's keeping cafeterias afloat: they're cheap. A tray

loaded with yeoman's portions of the Cleburne's most-popular items—half a baked chicken on rice (\$2.89), squash casserole (79 cents), fresh fruit salad (89 cents), a yeast roll (19 cents), and egg custard pie (89 cents)—totals \$5.65. As Mickelis says, "Two people can eat like crazy here for near ten dollars."

The Cleburne's location, near the heart of the yupped West University area and close to classy River Oaks, also means that it is an automatic draw for people who in better times were accustomed to dining by candlelight. As one corporate president, a Cleburne regular, observes ruefully, "You live in River Oaks these days, and you can't afford to eat anywhere else."

PATRICIA SHARPE



*Mayor Ed Koch: "Texas can drill for oil in Central Park. Just convince the parks commissioner that your rig will be indistinguishable from an elm tree."*

**Galbraith, Laffer, Rovin, and Simon weren't enough? Well, we've lined up a governor, a mayor, and a couple of high-powered executives to share their words of wisdom on Texas.**

# Famous Fixers

P A R T      T W O

## Michael Dukakis

*Governor, Massachusetts*

**N**O ONE KNOWS BETTER THAN MASSACHUSETTS what happens when a state is reliant on one industry. In our case, it was shoes and textiles. When that was booming, we were booming; when that was down, we were down.

It was a long way back. States that are overdependent on any one thing, whether it be textiles, oil, mining, corn, or wheat, are in trouble. Diversity is the key. I know Mark White has been working on bringing in high-tech industries. I read that your Secretary of Agriculture, Jim Hightower, is trying to encourage cotton farmers to grow blueberries. The point is to be more market-sensitive. Massachusetts has a small agricultural sector, but it is doing very well: it is growing quality crops, and it has gotten into horticulture.

Obviously, as governor of this state, I can't support an oil import fee; we use a lot of oil, and it would be a very heavy tax on us. On the other hand, there are things we can do to shore up the domestic industry without imposing taxes. One is to fill the strategic petroleum reserve. Another is the creation of long-term contracts between producing and consuming states. If we could have long-term contracts at a reasonable price—let's say a little higher than the market—that would help both states. It gets you back into production, and it protects us from the kind of shock we experience when OPEC raises its prices.

## Nolan Bushnell

*Founder of Atari; Chairman of the Board and CEO, Axlon, Inc., Manufacturer of Electronic Toys and Games, Sunnyvale, California*

**W**HY ISN'T TEXAS HONG KONG? TEXAS is a geographic region with people who are creative and hardworking. The same thing can be said of Hong Kong. Hong Kong right now is primarily managerial, and its labor base is highly skilled—the low-cost labor is on the Chinese mainland. Texas

should be the Hong Kong of the border. There's a lower labor rate in Mexico than there is in Hong Kong, and I would rather have the productivity here, closer to my market. Your geography gives you a tremendous advantage in shipping costs over those of the Far East.

America in the next twenty years is going to have to convert itself to a society based on construction and services, not on manufacturing. To do that, you need robotics, and not enough is being done on robotics, so there are tremendous opportunities in that area.

Also, if Texas changed its liability laws, you could get a jump on the world. If you say that companies in your state will have a limit placed on liability, you could have a tremendous advantage. The cost of products is being pushed up by insurance. You have to reintroduce the concept of self-liability. If someone screws up and gets hurt—that's pretty much his screwup.

## Victor Kiam

*President and CEO, Remington Products, Inc., Manufacturer of Electric Shavers and Other Appliances, Bridgeport, Connecticut*

**T**EXAS IS SOMEWHAT LIKE AUSTRALIA. AUSTRALIA is blessed with natural resources—in its case, minerals—and with agriculture. Now the world marketplace for both those items is in a glut, and the Australians are in shock. So they have created a program in which if an individual can raise 80 per cent of the funds needed to start a business, that person can get low-cost government loans. If you had a similar program in Texas, you would find entrepreneurs coming out of the woodwork. This thing has to be led by the private sector. You've got Mr. Perot and at least a few individuals like that who are still loaded. That's what's needed, a top-level guy. I assure you that people in Texas with good ideas have been turned away by lenders because their ideas are mundane, not high-tech.

I would also start an advertising and publicity blitz on the advantages of holding

conventions in Texas. You're so overbuilt you can cut the prices of the rooms to the bone and make money on lunches and dinners. The hotels are just sitting there. If they can make \$1 a room, at least it's something.

Our federal government is committed now to reversing the flow of funds out of the country, and it will try to keep the dollar weak. So right now is a golden opportunity to beat the bushes and get foreign companies to build factories here; with the dollar weak, foreign companies have to come in here to compete. Texas has got ports, airports, good communications. You have to have a coordinated, planned program to decide what your state has to offer to other countries and then go out and start attracting foreign manufacturing.

Don't forget: when you have entrepreneurs, you have failures. You just have to keep going.

## Edward I. Koch

*Mayor, New York City*

**T**O HELP THE TEXAS ECONOMY, I MAKE THE following offer: New York City will be happy to let Texas drill for oil in Central Park. All you have to do is meet the requirements listed below:

1. Apply for and receive approval from all federal, state, and local environmental agencies.

2. Ask permission from the New York City Board of Estimate, which consists of the mayor, the comptroller, and the council president and the borough presidents of Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Staten Island, and Manhattan.

3. Convince the parks commissioner that your drilling rig will be indistinguishable from an elm tree.

4. Persuade the city council to pass the necessary legislation.

5. Persuade the state legislature to agree with the city council.

6. Make your case before the parks committees of Community Boards Seven, Eight, Ten, and Eleven.

7. Go before the full membership of Community Boards Seven, Eight, Ten, and Eleven and explain why you started riots at their parks committee meetings.

8. Throw a party and invite the Central Park Conservancy, the Friends of Central Park, the New York Public Interest Research Group, the Environmental Action Coalition, the Environmental Defense Fund, and Ralph Nader. A very small room will suffice for this party.

9. Defend any and all legal actions that are filed at the various levels of state and federal court.

10. Hold a series of warm, friendly meetings with the little old lady who lives near the corner of Sixty-eighth Street and Columbus Avenue and who walks her dog in the park.

Please let me know when you're ready to begin drilling.

**Remember Texas, that land of big opportunity and little government, where people with daring and grit could accomplish just about anything they dreamed up? Well, it has moved south to Belize, and a whole bunch of Texans have moved with it.**

# The Last Resort

BY TINA ROSENBERG



**F**IVE YEARS AGO, A TOUR OF KIETH Jackson's properties wound through the plush lawns and gleaming houses off Texas Highway 6 in West Houston. From 1975 to 1980 Jackson sold up to two thousand lots each year, in his peak years doing \$25 million in business.

Today on Kieth Jackson's newest piece of real estate, two chickens peck at the dirt in a clearing in the middle of a steamy jungle. The whirr of cicadas drowns out the pounding of the Caribbean a thousand feet away. Inside an aluminum building are 43 sea-blue indoor swimming pools filled with salt water, larvae, and soybean meal. Jackson has been a rancher, an oilman, and a developer, but now he has seen the future, and it is a shrimp farm in Cucumber Beach, Belize.

"Business in Texas started to go to hell in a hand basket in 1980 and from there got progressively worse," Jackson says. "In 1983 I said that's as far as it goes. I got involved in Belize, and I'm concentrating down there until the market in Texas does something."

*Tina Rosenberg is a freelance writer based in Latin America.*

The Belize of which Jackson speaks is nine thousand square miles, most of it covered by mahogany jungle, tucked under Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula. Formerly a logging colony known as British Honduras, Belize gained its independence from the Crown in 1981 and has left many of the niceties of countryhood charmingly unfinished. Belize is now a country of rich agricultural land with an English-speaking, democratic government yearning for someone to do something to it. "They will develop laws to fit your problems," says Jackson. "They want to do business. In Texas you have bureaucrats who don't care if they do business with you or not."

In Belize there are hardly any bureaucrats. There are also hardly any roads, hardly any bridges, and hardly any reasonably priced electricity. But that's all right. An enterprising Texan with a modest bankroll can build a hydroelectric power station. At least Jackson says that's what he intends to do. Jackson's other plans for Belize since 1981—none of which has come to fruition—have included a water buffalo ranch, a vegetable farm, a soybean farm, a luxury hotel, an electric company [[CONTINUED ON PAGE 202](#)]

*Sixteen years ago Houston executive Jerry McDermott*



*came to Belize looking for oil. Instead he found Paradise. Today McDermott — dressed in his work clothes — and his wife, Linda, run a \$2 million tropical resort.*

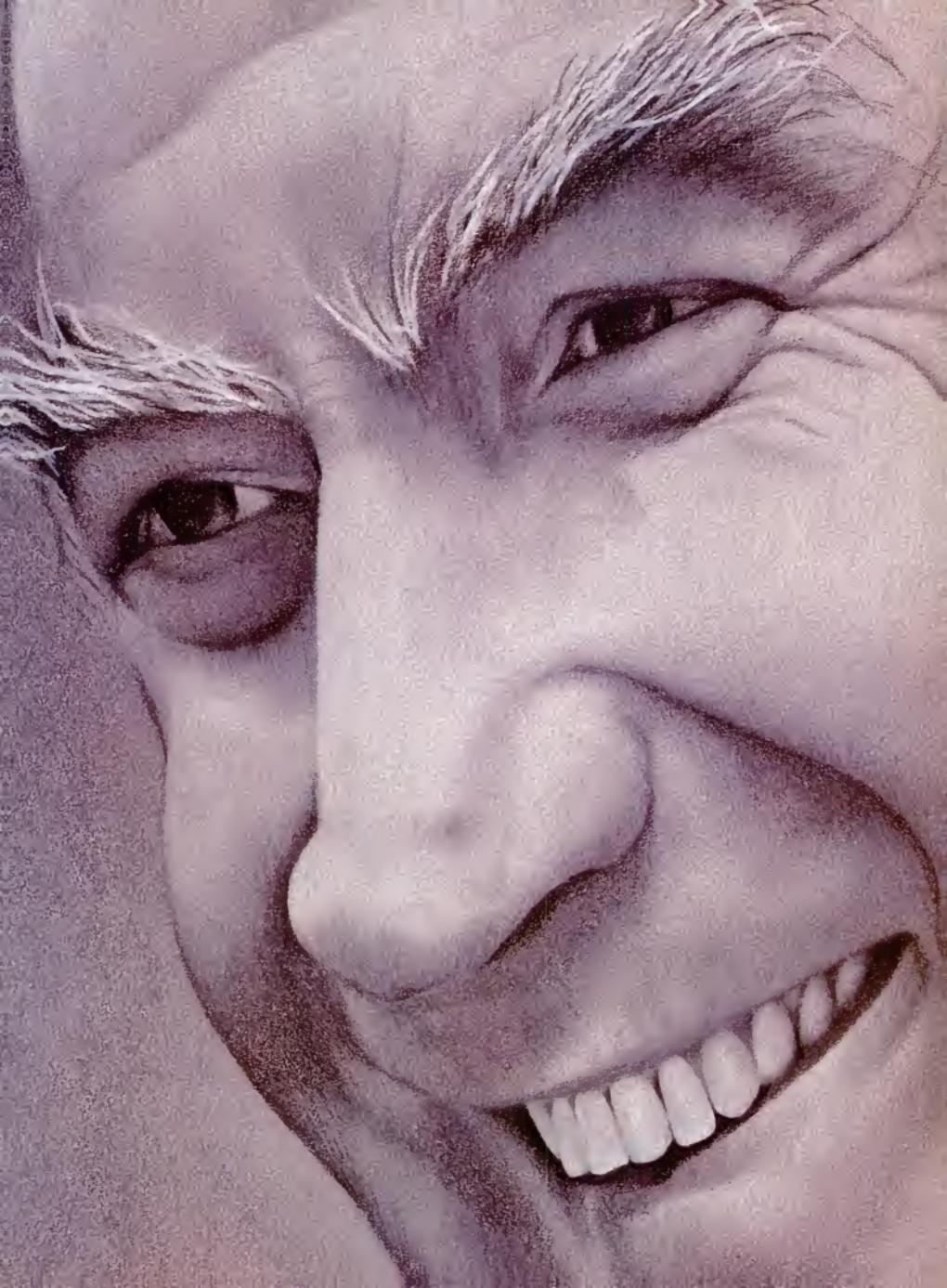
# The Wright House

BY PAUL BURKA

Jim Wright of Fort Worth will replace Tip O'Neill of Boston as Speaker of the House. That's great for Texas, but what does it mean for America?

**R**OOM H-128 OF THE U.S. CAPITOL is not on the tour. Visitors and guides never see this obscure room, one floor below the House chamber in a remote corner of the building. Neither, for that matter, do most members of the House. It has been 25 years now since the little room has been a part of American history, 25 years since Speaker Sam Rayburn closed the door for the last time and went home to Texas to die.

On December 8 the Democratic members of the House will choose another Texan as their new Speaker. The successor to the retiring Tip O'Neill is certain to be Jim Wright of Fort Worth, and his political heritage was shaped behind the door to Room H-128. In Rayburn's day, the room was the meeting place of the small group of Capitol Hill insiders known as the Board of Education. Late in the afternoon, after the House had adjourned for the day, they would gather to talk politics with the Speaker over bourbon and branch water. Vice President Harry Truman was there on an April [ *CONTINUED ON PAGE 238* ]



The magic of Martí's equivale, or "pigskin," chair from Guadalajara (\$59); handwoven 100 per cent wool shawl (\$9.50); wooden harvest-dance Indian mask from Guerrero (\$14); etched alpaca, or "nickel silver," glass holders (\$8.50-\$12); eleven-inch alpaca serving plate (\$19); papier-mâché fruits and vegetables (\$2-\$3.75). At Alfareria Guadalajara (right) you name your pot, they got it.



# And a Piñata In a Pear Tree

*For choice Christmas gifts, the shrewdest bargain hunters head south of the border to the streets of Nuevo Laredo.*



**C**HISTMAS SHOPPING IN Nuevo Laredo is a time-honored ritual for Texans, and many are addicted to the annual event, which combines the kick of international travel with the chance for great buys on exotic gifts. An informal singles group from Austin that calls itself the Eclectic Society makes the trip yearly, bringing back piñatas, boots, and cases of Corona on rented buses. A trip from Houston organized by Lone Star Travelers is billed as "Christmas Shopping in Nuevo Laredo." The Bible Way Church of Waco sends its choir on shopping tours, and Tex-Mex Travel of San Antonio escorts tourists to the Mexican markets. Other shoppers travel in smaller groups or alone and visit the exceptional furniture and housewares stores, where they can decorate their entire ranch house in Mexican colonial style, or they stop at the jewelry store where custom-made gold and silver designs are brought out for their eyes only. Skeet-shooters from the club La Bota and hunters from private lodges come across on the weekends to lunch at the Cadillac Bar and spend the afternoon shopping. Although Nuevo Laredo's national arts and crafts center closed four years ago, it was, according to one shopkeeper, "because so many of us are doing our own clever things here."

Of all the Mexican border towns, Nuevo Laredo is the

*by Catherine Chadwick*

most convenient for travelers from Dallas, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, and South Texas (the Tex-Mex Express will bring train passengers from Corpus Christi to Laredo every weekend beginning in February). Leo Garza, the manager of the Laredo Tourist Bureau, expects between 18,000 and 19,000 visitors to pass through town in December on their way to get terrific deals across the river on leather, furniture, fabrics, ceramics, jewelry, and art. And, as you are about to discover, there are bargains for everyone on everything.

But first it must be said that Christmas shopping on the border is not like shopping anywhere else, and you should be prepared for challenges and quirks as well as rewards. Instead of a Santa Claus on the street corner, there will be, most likely, a poor woman wrapped in rags, surrounded by children, begging for money. Bing Crosby Christmas carols will be missing, but there are some things you won't get at a mall—a fresh *jugo de melón*, one of a variety of tangy juices sold at walk-up counters on the main street, or a taste of shredded green *nopalitos* (cactus) from a street vendor.

While most merchants—certainly the ones in the more exclusive shops—understand English, Spanish comes in handy when haggling over prices. (You should be able to get at least a 10 per cent discount, especially at the tourist stores closest to the bridge, where goods are marked higher for that reason.) Because the dollar is more valued than the peso, most merchants mark their prices in dollars and prefer to deal in dollars. But you should use pesos to purchase items marked in pesos. Otherwise, there's no telling what kind of exchange rate the store will give you. And if what you are buying costs more than \$300, the amount you may save by paying in pesos will make it worth your effort. For example, an irresistible item carries a price tag of 800,000 pesos. If you pay in pesos, you will be spending the equivalent of \$1000 (at November's prevailing exchange rate of 800 pesos to the dollar). But if you want to pay in dollars, the store could easily announce its rate is 700, and you would end up paying \$1143. By the way, the better exchange rates are given at banks on the American side. But don't get stuck with too many pesos, because you'll lose money buying back American dollars.

Also, there are the rules and regulations for crossing the border to keep in mind. For a visit of less than 72 hours, you won't need any paperwork, not even a tourist card. If you drive across the border, there are two bridges you can cross on: the one near the hotel La Posada—number one—or the new bridge that extends from Interstate 35. Each charges 75 cents. A couple of warnings: U.S. car insurance is not recognized in Mexico, and traffic accidents and violations are considered a criminal [ [CONTINUED ON PAGE 226](#) ]



Cupids, curlicues, hearts, and flowers decorate Jorge Bautista's dreamy brass boxes at Martí's (large, \$110; medium, \$69). More from Martí's (below): antique bronze candelabra (\$750), Manuel Felguerez black clay sculpture (\$79), woven wool rug from San Miguel.





**A**t Casablanca Gifts (above): Christmas-red boa boots (\$225), a black ceramic vase (\$24), a sterling silver bead and heart necklace (\$64) with matching earrings (\$22), and a crystal sugar dish from Monterrey (\$10). From Rafael de México: (far right) a hand-carved pine end table (\$160), tea for two in blue (pot, \$8; cup and saucer, \$4), and a clay flute (\$7); (near right) a still life in purple by David Paz (thirty by twenty inches, \$100).







# TOUCH ME, FEEL ME, HEAL ME!

 I approached psychic surgery with an open mind. But as I watched the healer press his fingers on my stomach and produce a gray string of gristle, I vowed to expose his mystical medicine.

I FIRST HEARD ABOUT PSYCHIC SURGERY from my hairstylist, George, a chatty, gossipy reservoir of obscure information. George and his friend Robert had undergone treatment from a Filipino psychic surgeon named Angel at a small nondenominational church in North Austin in February. A few weeks had passed, and George was happy to report that the neck and lower back problems he had previously experienced were much improved.

Except for a small amount of pressure when the surgeon's hands penetrated his body, George said, there had been no pain. There had been some blood; a small scab formed, but it washed right away. The only time George was the least bit apprehensive was on his third visit, when Angel opened his chest wall and began to massage his heart. "I didn't actually see my own heart," George said as he snipped at my hair, "but I saw the opening and some watery-looking blood. I actually saw his hand go through the wall of Robert's stomach. Robert was supposed to be watching my operation too, but he couldn't see anything. Robert is the type who went to see *120 Days of Sodom* and closed his eyes at all the interesting parts."

George had been curious about psychic

surgery since reading about it in *Wer*, an off-the-wall humor magazine. He was skeptical at first, but the experience with Angel turned him into a believer. Since faith healing was a fundamentally religious—in this case, Christian—concept and since I had never known George to concern himself much with Christianity, I expressed surprise. "There are a lot of unexplained, miraculous cures in this world," he said, somewhat offended by my attitude. George had no difficulty whatsoever believing that a surgeon could run his hand through a person's body, remove diseased tissue, and leave no trace of an entry wound. "That seems perfectly logical," he said. What was patently illogical, in his view, was space travel. He considered the moon landing to be a fraud of mind-boggling proportions and was convinced that the whole episode was filmed in a television studio.

In the days that followed, I started hearing a good deal about the Filipino faith healer, Angel Domingo, who had been working around Austin, Houston, San Antonio, and Lake Whitney. At least two other Filipino psychic surgeons had worked in Texas fairly recently; this type of faith healing is indigenous to the Philippines, though a few American practitioners [ *CONTINUED ON PAGE 230* ]

by GARY CARTWRIGHT

# No Dancin' in Anson

*In a church-run town north of Abilene, lots of folks have the urge to two-step, but no one has the nerve to change.*

STEVEN NICHOLS



*Davidson dreamed of staging a renegade ball, but the prospect of jail and of churchgoers' scorn has put a damper on his activism.*

For the first time in his life, Paul Davidson is giving serious thought to committing a crime. The fundamentalist farm town of Anson, about twenty miles north of Abilene, is home to 2800 law-abiding souls, and Davidson knows that if he goes through with his plan for a public dance, he will become an overnight folk hero to some and a pariah to the rest. He will face arrest, conviction, and a fine and will forever lose whatever chance he might have had to dine in many of the finer homes in Anson. Still, if this flagrant act of defiance benefits even a few, he figures he can live with a criminal record: Paul Davidson, convicted of dancin' in Anson.

Yes, it's true—you can't dance in Anson. Scootin' your boots in public has been a crime since 1933. For two generations, anyone who has considered "kickin'" within the city limits has had to weigh the indiscretion against the pen-

ance, a fine of "not less than FIVE DOLARS [sic] nor more than \$15.00." In 1940 someone pointed out that the Cowboy Christmas Ball could be a problem, if not a downright embarrassment. The ball was a veritable institution, the highlight of the social season and a staple of Anson entertainment since the late 1800's. For seven years some of the town's leading citizens had openly danced at the bootleg ball and gotten away with it, until someone blew the whistle. The city fathers did what they had to do. They amended the ordinance. To this day, dancing in Anson is allowed for three nights in December, the run of the Cowboy Christmas Ball.

Paul Davidson, advertising manager for the weekly *Western Observer*, sits on the floor of his office, surrounded by bound, yellowed copies of the newspaper, dusty and brittle from half a century of storage. From the last week in February 1933: the Anson boys beat the daylights out of Stamford in the intercity bowling tournament. From the following week: church attendance was down, diphtheria cases were up. At some point, the city council met, declared dancing illegal, and no one bothered to write up why. Davidson thinks it's time someone brushed the cobwebs off the ordinance to see if there's anything of substance left after 53 years. "Maybe the time is now," he says. "Once and for all, let's put a ghost to rest." An illegal dance smack in the middle of town would force the issue. Davidson gazes out the window of his office and pictures hundreds of Ansonites gleefully bopping and stomping on the courthouse lawn. His own band, Bittercreek, could provide the tunes. The band usually travels a hundred miles a weekend to serve up country-and-western music for another town's pleasure. "Since I was thirteen, I've been in front of the public playing music, and people were dancing," he says. "I come

BY JAMIEAITKEN



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here, and suddenly that's not acceptable."

High atop the town's imposing neo-Gothic courthouse is a statue of a maiden gripping a sword in one hand and the scales of justice in the other, her eyes permanently fixed on a main street of pickups and lazy talk. A gentle West Texas breeze swirls dust down the sidewalk, and a couple of young girls just out of the ice cream shop pass by, giggling and dripping chocolate. Small-town life drew Davidson here four years ago from Sweetwater to raise his family. Now he's not so content. "It's just that the culture I'm used to doesn't exist in Anson, Texas," he says.

What does exist is a bedrock belief in the fundamental teachings of the Good Book. On the highway into Anson from Abilene, the speed limit drops as you pass between twin towers of faith, the Church of Christ and the First Baptist Church, their sanctuaries rising bold and strong on either side of the highway. "No doubt about it, Anson is a church-run town," says one local official. Church of Christ minister Leon Sharp puts it this way: "Of the key responsibilities in this town, members of this church hold them," specifically, the offices of mayor, city secretary, chief of police, justice of the peace, county judge, county attorney, and county clerk. Between them, the Church of Christ and the First Baptist Church claim the entire Anson city council and a majority on the school board. Neither church is fond of dancing. "I feel like some dance per se is vulgar," Sharp explains. "The music and some of the rhythms, especially the modern rhythms, appear to me to be the result of native dances that were intended to lead to sexual activity."

Sharp concedes that some members of his congregation don't cotton to the no-dancing creed. "Each individual has to make up his own mind," he says. "I can't do it for him. I can't melt it down and pour it in him. If he happens to fall by the wayside, I tend to be more tolerant." He can afford to be. Tradition, religion, and brothers in high places have become vigilante shepherds against the encroachment of the evils of dance. Only once a year does the flock grow tense as youngsters become restless and ready to roam: at the time of the elusive senior prom.

For years parents have thrown together de facto dances for high school seniors out at the cinder-block VFW building or the Catholic church parish hall, which rest conveniently outside the city limits. But those aren't the *real* proms—high school gym, crepe paper, and balloon proms—that are a rite of passage for American youth. Something is missing—something like a Cowboy Christmas Ball waiver one night a year.

"I can't understand why all over the world a child can look forward to a junior and senior prom and in certain areas of our country it is so wrong, so wrong as to deny them that privilege because it is a 'sin,'" says Salvador Torres, the only



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Catholic on the fundamentalist-controlled school board. Torres has all but given up hope of seeing one of his three children at a high school-sponsored prom. Three years ago, he remembers, the board rejected a request by students for a year-end dance. "There were five who were staunch Southern Bible Belt believers and two liberals," he recalls. "If the five had voted yes, prom for the kids, they would have been hand-slapped when they got back to church Sunday."

In the spring of 1983 a group of parents decided to stage a prom in town anyway. They rented the home of the Cowboy Christmas Ball, an arena-size building next to the county livestock barn, and ordered a banquet and bouquets. Hours before the doors opened, word got around to Mayor Gene Rodgers, who quickly ordered the police chief to do his duty. As dusk settled over the town and nervous teens primped, harried parents frantically shuttled the prom outside city limits.

"We'd sent the police down there to stop it because it's against the city ordinance," Mayor Rodgers says. "Any time you have that many people get together, you have drinking and you have a disturbance—somebody either gets hurt or killed—and I'm sure that's why the ordinance was passed in the first place."

For Johnny Graham, Anson's 31-year-old police chief, the ordinance is not such a clear-cut issue. A native son and a member of the Church of Christ, Graham walks a thin line between the law of the land and the law of the Lord. Graham and his wife are one of the eleven couples behind this year's Cowboy Christmas Ball. "It would be awkward probably if we ever had a real problem with dancing," he says slowly. "If they were going to dance up here on the square, I'd probably have to go up there and stop them." Graham knows that if dancing were ever brought to a public vote and defeated, his beloved Cowboy Christmas Ball would end up in Boot Hill. And he remembers what it was like to grow up in a town devoid of movies, arcades, skating rinks, and school dances. "I've got a daughter," Graham says. "I'd rather know she was here at a senior prom than out on a country road with some strange man I don't know, pregnant or on drugs."

The pretty eighteen-year-old behind the counter of a local cafe knows something about that. An A and B student at Anson High, she dropped out a semester shy of graduation. Today she is married to a roughneck and is mother to an eight-month-old girl. "I honestly believe that people get tied down too fast because there's nothing else to do in this town but go out and get pregnant and get married," she says softly. "I love my baby girl and my husband. But I wish I could start all over."

Late in the evening the activity picks up in the Church of Christ parking lot near Anson High. Kids turn on car radios and

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sit on the hoods, swinging their feet out over the grilles. Why? "Because there's nothing else to do," they say. "It's boring. Everybody wants something to do, but there's nothing to do here. So we ride around, go uptown, sit in the parking lot and talk to everybody." And dancing? "The people who set the rules, their families have always lived here, and they just keep the rules. Nobody's brave enough to change anything because it's been this way for so long."

Even the bravest of Anson's dancing activists repeat the stories of outlaw dances in hushed voices. They tell of the gutsy grandmother who staged a break-dancing demonstration on the courthouse steps, and they mourn the chamber of commerce's street festival, which fell through after church elders threatened to withdraw their chamber memberships. Yet despite all the underground rumbling and fuming, little steam seeps to the surface of everyday life in Anson. The city judge, incredibly enough, had no idea that a no-dancing ordinance was even on the books. Leon Thurman, the cigar-chomping, seventy-year-old country-boy lawyer and long-time Ansonite—the man who would wind up arbitrating a dancing dispute should one arise—explains: "There are a lot of ordinances I don't know about, so many old ones that nobody pays any attention to until somebody files on somebody for something. Then I'll go check the ordinance."

Rocking back in his deep leather chair, the judge chuckles and rolls a heavy, unlit cigar between his teeth. He remembers a long-gone soda shop called the Buttermilk Tavern: "They sold Cokes, soft drinks, maybe a little buttermilk. But they had a jukebox there, and you'd meet and dance. Took my wife there before I married her." He admits that, by golly, those after-school sock hops must have been illegal. But would he have thrown himself in jail? "If I want to dance, I'm gonna get out there and dance," he replies. I ask him if he would openly defy the law. He laughs and feigns a look of innocence. "No, I wouldn't openly defy it. I'd just close my eyes! As long as you don't enforce that ordinance, it doesn't mean a thing."

Paul Davidson is not so sure. He's not a seventy-year-old judge, an ex-legislator, a man too powerful and too comfortable to worry about some silly little ordinance he has never heard of. The more Davidson thinks about it, the more his dancing activism wanes. He figures his own job is on the line and admits that what he really wants is a scapegoat, somebody else to stage the dance and take the heat so he can root from the sidelines. He knows he'll come up empty. "The people I talk to won't come through for the same reason I won't," he says. "If you do this, the right people can cause you trouble." \*

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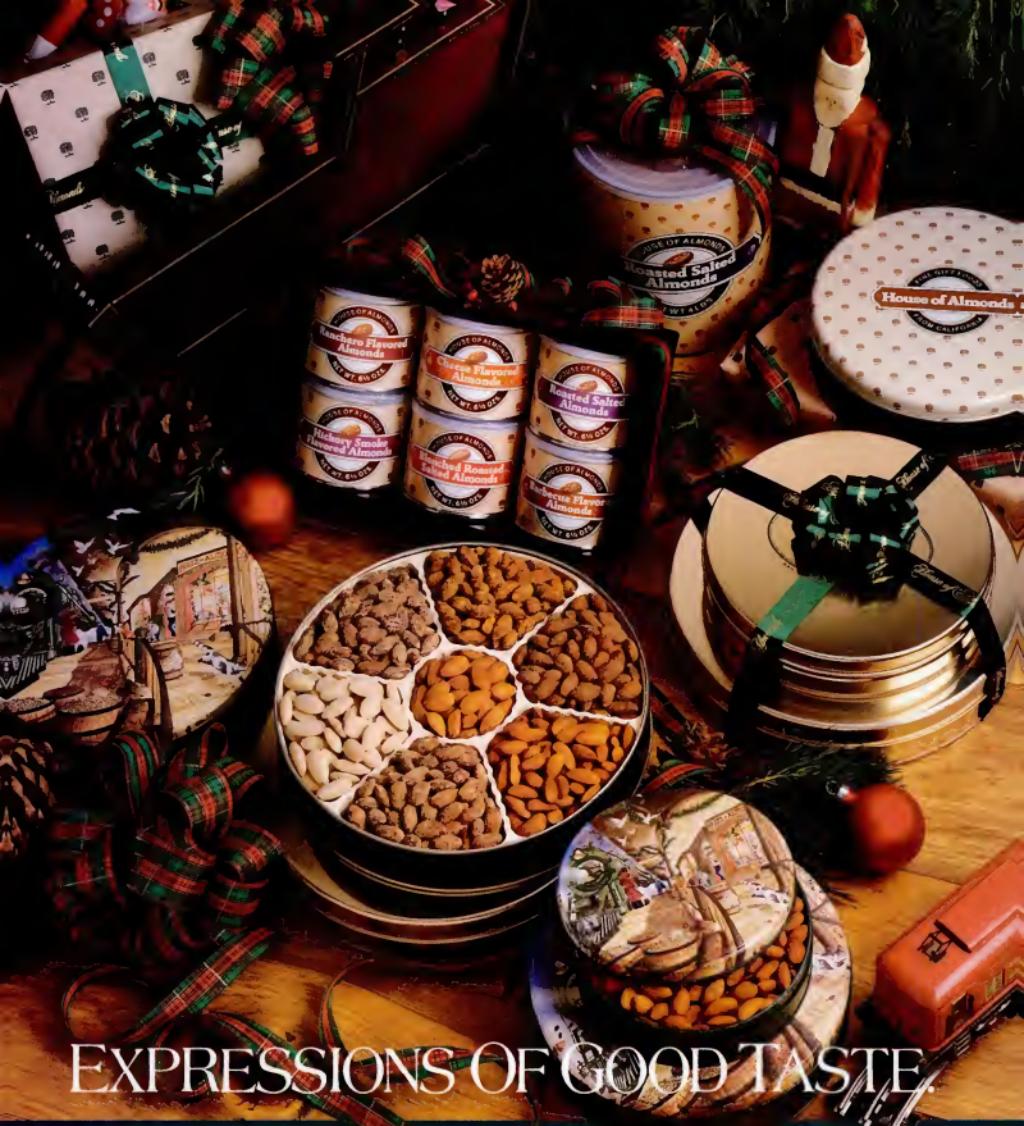
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# SHORT AND SWEET

*If tempted by a Mexican bakery full of "girlfriends," "kisses," and gingerbread pigs, you may as well give in.*

TOM RYAN



*The miracle of the loaves and the buns: humble ingredients, transformed into gaily colored treats, practically beg to be devoured.*

The classic Mexican bakery, still found in South Texas, is a library of baked goods, a walk-in maze of *pan dulce*-stocked shelves. A metal tray and tongs are issued to each customer at the door. The selection is often overwhelming, but the essence of all *pan dulce*, or "sweet bread," is sugar, shortening, and flour molded, colored, and christened accord-

ing to the baker's imagination. In Mexico, where these buns and cookies are consumed day and night, *panaderías* are open long hours, and bakers turn out warm, yeasty batches in monstrous numbers. Pastries of every imaginable shape and dimension emerge from the ovens, encrusted with candied fruit, colored sugar crystals, confetti candies, even—in the case of the once-a-year specialty known as dead bread—modeled-dough skulls and crossbones to be eaten on November 1, the Day of the Dead.

Mounded onto racks hourly, the breads don't sit on the shelves long enough to dry out (it's the high yeast content and the lack of preservatives that turn day-old *pan dulce* into cardboard). From dawn to well past midnight grandmothers and toddlers, priests and drunks roam the aisles of Mexico's bakeries, laughing and clacking their tongs at pastries often alive with honey bees. Texas bakeries lack the humming bees, but they're warm, welcoming places, often adjacent to a restaurant or coffee shop filled with customers who couldn't wait to start in on their purchases.

The temptation when faced with glass cases brimming with *pan dulce* is to go gaga and order one of everything. Don't let the smell of vanilla and cinnamon go to your head. And a few words of advice to first-timers: don't expect *pan dulce* to taste like French pastry. Traditional *pan dulce* is not rich in butter. Lard, considered lighter and definitely cheaper, is the shortening of preference, with vegetable shortening being used in certain recipes. Butter-rich buns, the Mexican bakers say, are too heavy, too *rico*, to be consumed day in and day out. *Pan dulce* is meant to be eaten with breakfast and nibbled during soap operas, before and after a siesta, and as a late-evening or early-morning pick-me-up. It should be eaten as fresh from the oven as you can get it, preferably still

BY BARBARA RODRIGUEZ

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warm (although reheating is deadly), dunked in coffee or hot chocolate. Because it's eaten often, usually accompanied by an intensely sweet drink, *pan dulce* is not very sweet; its sugar quotient is more in line with tea breads than with dessert pastries.

Like the state's Mexican restaurants, most Texas *panaderías* offer a moderate variety of high-demand items. The most authentic bake as often as four times daily and fill their cases with some thirty different pastries. *Marranos* (gingerbread "pigs") run rampant across bakery shelves from Brownsville to Fort Worth. And empanadas ("turnovers") come stuffed with anything and everything—sweet, spicy, you name it. Any *panadería* worth its anise bakes *conchas* (spongy round buns embossed with shell patterns) and *volcanes* ("volcanoes" of cake exploding with cinnamon-sugar crumbles). Don't be surprised if you find the same breads called by different names; bakers name batches with serendipitous abandon.

Basically, *pan dulce* is the categorical term for all sweet Mexican bakery goods. Beyond that, it is most often broken down into two types: the densely textured, dull-yellow *pan de huevo* ("egg bread") and—a relatively recent innovation—the more elegant *pan fino* ("fine bread"), twisted, braided, and glazed creations like tense puff pastries. When traveling, I prefer the egg breads for their hardness. Among *pan fino* selections, I favor the elongated *campechanas* (sticky "hammocks" threaded with caramelized sugar) and *besos* ("kisses" of strawberry jam between flaky layers), too delicate to survive in a backpack but ideal for breakfast in bed.

Visit enough Mexican bakeries, and you'll run across devil's food *charusco* ("scorch") and *alamares*, twists of *pan fino* named for the loop-and-knot closures called "frogs" in English. Eat enough breads and pastries named for *lenguas* ("tongues"), *novias* ("girlfriends"), and *pericos* ("parrots"), and you'll learn that gingerbread pigs and empanadas aside, all *pan dulce* tastes more or less the same. So order a cup of hot chocolate and munch away. Eventually you'll understand what all *mexicanos* know: *pan dulce* is best when eaten during intense political debate or while staring into the eyes of someone you love. As they say in Mexico, "*Las penas con pan son menos*" ("Your worries are less with bread").

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Here are some places throughout Texas where you can sample *pan dulce*. The going price is about a quarter for the breads, fifteen cents for the cookies. Along the border, it's even less.

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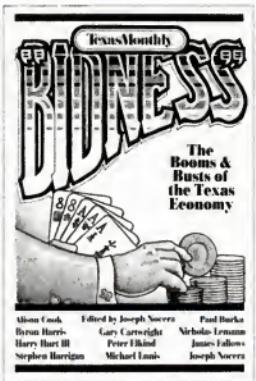
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variety of goods in tidy rows. Try the *campechanas* (thin, crackly layers of pastry sprinkled with sugar) and the *lenguas* crunchy with cinnamon, and pick up some Mexican chocolate at the cash register (La Reyna also has a new location at 5829 Berkman, 928-3829). Baked goods are sold in a homey small grocery store at El Porvenir (2217 Santa Rita, 469-0581). Here the pumpkin empanadas are dark with spices, and the spongy gingerbread pigs (*marranitos*) are rich with molasses. Also worth your while is Cisco's (1511 E. Sixth, 478-2420) legendary power breakfast spot, where the French-pastry-like *novias* come filled with cherry, apple, or pineapple. Joe's (2305 E. Seventh, 472-0017) is also a good standby; you can pick up a piñata with your *pan de huevo*. **Corpus Christi** • Try Casa de Roy (5838 S. Staples, 993-1911) for its *mollettes* (crumbled-sugar sweet rolls) and *pan de polvo* (wedding cookies dusted with sugar). The City Bakery (809 Nineteenth Street, 881-9297) is the best of the near-downtown shops. La Estrella (2906 Ayers, 882-5472) is a good example of the *mama-and-papa* establishments dotting the west side. Its *polvorones* (shortbread cookies) melt on the tongue. Speaking a little Spanish helps here. Otherwise, point and smile.

**Dallas** • Aficionados go to Arturo's (5628 Lemmon, 526-0797) for a good variety, including cinnamon "bow ties." Henry's Bakery (1804 McMillan, 824-0971) has brightly colored cookies, empanadas, and wedding cakes to order. Luna's Tortilla Factory (1615 McKinney, 747-2661) doesn't have great variety but is an easy place to get in and out of for *pan dulce* to go with morning coffee. One of the biggest selections can be found at Stados Baking Company (2918 Harwood, 871-8839).

**El Paso** • A sparkling white adobe building, the Bowie Bakery (901 S. Park, 544-6025) is a south El Paso neighborhood bakery for the entire city. Customers line the street on weekends to scarf up the most-popular items: *esponja* ("sponge" bread, also called *pan de huevo*), *marranitos*, and half a dozen varieties of empanadas. Only Spanish is spoken, but all you need is a finger to point with.

**Fort Worth** • Fans of Joe T. Garcia's already know about the restaurant's bakery and lunchroom (2122 N. Main, 626-5770), with a high turnover of baked goods and even some packaged assortments of *pan dulce* for speedy shopping. The Don Lorenzo Bakery (1818 Hemphill, 921-3415) also has a luncheonette; its fresh pastries include some with chocolate frosting and others that are gaily tri-colored. Ibarra's Supermarket and Bakery (4472 Hemphill, 924-5064) has the classic yeasty *pan dulce*, very fresh.

**Houston** • Those in the know repair to Ojasca Bakery (1011 Seventy-sixth Street, 926-9000), where tall display cases brim with breads and cookies (try the *tomatadas* with coconut topping and cherry-coconut filling). Paco Baker (3671 Fon-

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dren, 953-7646) leans heavily toward cookies but has sweet breads too and unforgettable multicolored cakes decorated with plastic motorbikes, animals, and dwarfs. Porras Pronto (6301 Market, 673-0727) offers *manos de león* ("lion's paws") as well as sweet-potato empanadas. **Laredo** • Locals line up at 3601 Springfield (722-9779) for López Bakery's famous *semita* loaves, a breakfast staple rich with nuts and redolent with anise. Right around *merienda* (the afternoon break for coffee and sweet breads), it's Katie-bar-the-door at Superior Bakery (520 Callaghan, 722-9074), as anxious patrons hope that the last *concha* didn't just walk out. At Holloway's Bakery (619 Guadalupe, 722-4488) *pan dulce* vies for shelf space with calorific cheesecakes worthy of bronzing.

**Nuevo Laredo** • On the south side of the border, stop in at cozy El Globo (Guerrero 2522, no phone) for a sample of a real *panadería*, complete with tongs and trays. Panificadora Rey (Guerrero 2243, 2-2560) has shelves that buckle with a boggling assortment of pastries. The favorite at Panificadora Yemel (Guerrero 1812, 4-9325) is the bear-foot-size *panecitos*, and you might find a few gingerbread pigs. **Rio Grande Valley** • The Valley probably has a little *panadería* or two in every town. La Roca in McAllen (2718 S. Twenty-third, 687-7451) is in a strip center, and customers frequently sit down to eat their selections right on the spot. The best deal may be at the Valley Bakery in Mercedes (169 N. Texas, 565-9078), where each piece is a dime. El Buen Gusto in Brownsville has two locations; the first one (2802 E. Fourteenth, 546-4472) is of the stop-in, pick-up, take-home variety and has the largest selection. The other is at 1445 E. Fourteenth (541-2074).

**San Antonio** • La Poblana (2411 N. Zarzamora, 732-1554) is nothing special on the outside, but on the inside a third generation of the Franco family is making *pan dulce* so good that Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez has it shipped fresh to him in Washington on occasion. A brisk school-kids-and-business people morning trade and a cafe of the same name next door have made the Bedoy Bakery (602 N.W. Twenty-fourth Street, 432-9290) a mainstay of the area. El Nopal (2114 Nogalitos, 534-5246) is easily the most eclectic bakery in town. A mini-grocery inhabiting an enormous cooler, as well as two video games, may be as much of a draw as the excellent *pan dulce* and pastries. At the largest Mexican bakery in town, Mi Tierra (218 Produce Row, 225-1262), sixty-year-old Ricardo Montalvo and two assistants shape and bake every item daily. Customers choose from a maddening selection and watch the *mercado-disco* window for fresh arrivals, especially the French bread and the world's best sweet-potato empanadas. ♦

*Barbara Rodriguez is a freelance writer living in Austin.*

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# SCRATCH SHOT

*In The Color of Money, Scorsese's search for purification in a pool hall produces a hollow hustle.*



*In The Color of Money* Newman shakes the doldrums of *The Verdict*, but Cruise (r.) can't compete; Scorsese (c.) gets lost in cheesy effects.

**P**aul Newman is a smartly maintained silver blade nicked along the edges in

*The Color of Money*. Reprising his role as Fast Eddie Felson from the 1961 film *The Hustler* (in which he crossed pool cues with Jackie Gleason's suave version of Minnesota Fats), Newman plays a retired ace who prides himself on his radar; even on the sidelines he can make instant readings of the true measure of things. Women, liquor, pool skill, the ability to pull a scam—he can pick apart their flaws at a glance. He can also detect the diamond within the coal. Coasting along on his slick line of gab, Fast Eddie is a tutor awaiting a star pupil, a raw talent he can train and polish to carry on the pool-hustler tradition. Enter Vincent Lauria (Tom Cruise, fresh from making the skies safe for democracy in *Top Gun*) and his moll, Carmen (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, who has a sexy, intimidating

smirk). As a stick man, Vince has a "sledgehammer break"—the balls collide like planets—but he's all power, no finesse. And no guile. Fast Eddie offers to clean the straw out of Vince's head and teach him guile: how to spot a pigeon and how to dump a match convincingly to set up a bigger score. The thrill of the kill is what he wishes to impart. The lesson of *The Color of Money* is, as Eddie tells Vince, "Money won is twice as sweet as money earned." Cash is king in *The Color of Money*, taken like scalps from skinned opponents. By the end of the movie, teacher and student are vying for each other's scalps, but money's got nothing to do with it. Pride is the movie's major muscle.

Directed by Martin Scorsese, the first half of *The Color of Money* is carried out in short, sure strokes, with its pungency aided by Richard Price's pithy screen-

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play. (Price, the streetwise author of *The Wanderers* and *Bloodbrothers*, makes a cameo appearance, occupying a bar stool as if it were a lily pad. He had better stick to writing.) The movie isn't as laden with atmosphere or as weighted down with pinkie-ring pomp as *The Hustler* was; for the first hour or so, it hurries with unpretentious purpose through shabby pockets of poverty and cold, drab nights. It has an eager, nipping air. But it doesn't pack a lot of emotion, and instead of building dramatically it veers off into technique. The truth is that Cruise is too much of a pipsqueak to be a fit adversary for Newman. He works hard, but you can see the work—he pumps adrenaline to hide an empty core. Not only does Cruise keep giving us his hee-haw grin, but he also dusts off his showboat moves from *Risky Business* and treats the poolroom as his private rock-video studio; and as a rival this John Cougar Mellencamp of nine ball makes for a skinny presence after the groomed, jumbo mystique of Gleason's Fats. As Eddie's girlfriend, Janelle, Helen Shaver lends little more to the movie than her husky fatigue. She's basically around to give the movie boy-girl-boy-girl balance.

When *The Color of Money* functions as a star vehicle for Newman, serving as an extension of his emotional and physical dynamism, it has a pleasing, brainy buzz. It's when the movie becomes Scorsese's whirligig that everything goes awry. Once Fast Eddie decides to aban-

**P**olice has punch when it sticks to procedure but loses its clout once it slides into blank stares.

don his spectator's chair and return to active duty, the movie, paradoxically, ceases to ride on Newman's trim shoulders; instead, he becomes a fixed point around which Scorsese's camera revolves (during a tournament, there's a very showy series of 360-degree turns around Newman's head). The movie becomes an orgy of montage, a concussion of fancy images. Scorsese even attempts to leave his religious imprint on Fast Eddie's quest by having him shoot pool in modest, light-flooded chapels before competing in a mirrored cathedral of commerce in Atlantic City (in the press notes, Scorsese describes Eddie's plight as a search for "purity," and purity for Scorsese requires a hundred-watt halo). Scorsese hits his low when he has Fast Eddie stare at a reflection of himself in a pool ball, un-

screw his cue stick, and abandon the field in one of those what-have-I-become moments of reckoning. A reflection in a pool ball! I never thought I would see Scorsese stoop to such a cheesy effect. He at least spared us Fast Eddie's hearing voices as he tossed on his pillow. *The Color of Money* is fast and painless, and it's cheering to see Paul Newman shake off the doldrums of *The Verdict*, but to treat this movie as a thundering return to form, as many critics have done, is to try to make a feast out of a few tasty scraps. *The Color of Money* leaves hollow pangs.

## A FRENCH ACCENT

**A**flock of French birds alighted on the twenty-fourth New York Film Festival (that autumnal rite held at Lincoln Center), their pigeon splats and sooty coughs falling on the critics' ears like enchantment. **A FRENCH ACCENT HELPS EARN THE FESTIVAL SUCCESS**, was the favorable verdict in the *New York Times*, a verdict echoed by others. Rather than beat a thesis against a rock on the subject of whither-French-cinema, I would like to play bumper cars with some of the films and try to make sense of the collisions. **Police** • Hubbub in a Paris station house, shot at shoulder level, with Gérard Depardieu as a moving slab of humor and menace. Directed by Maurice Pialat, **Police** has some of the burly congestion of *Hill Street Blues*. Suspects are shunted from cell to cell, and Depardieu conducts interrogations by bouncing swarthy heads off his desk during his investigation of the activities of a Tunisian gang. Sophie Marceau, who became a schoolgirl star in France with *La Boum*, plays a sullen lump of deceit whom Depardieu first bullies, then falls for with a big thud. Only the morose Marceau seems to be digging into her character; Depardieu seems to be horsing around on the set. Depardieu's heavy antics are amusing for the first hour, then he's required to generate serious feeling (as when the movie asks him to look at Marceau with lovesick regret), and the larky gleam in his eye dies into dull duty. **Police** has real punch when it sticks to procedure—the best scene is a rip-open search of a suspect's apartment, a storm-trooper ballet of material rape—but the film loses its clout once it slides off into blank stares and enigma.

**Menage** • Gérard Depardieu again, getting bigger by the minute and outdoing himself as a gay barge of beefcake whose kimono bulges like a black sail. As Bob, a homosexual burglar with a bloodhound scent for rich folks' gold bars and stashed cash, Depardieu lounges around in striped bikini briefs, his stomach sunk to the mezzanine level (to borrow a phrase from P. G. Wodehouse). In one amazing scene, he walks naked across the cool floor of a



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room that is stuffed with objets d'art, his heftiness played off against daintier marble statuary, a bull in a faun shop. Directed by Bertrand Blier, never one to bother with niceties, *Menage* has a slam-bang hilarious beginning as Bob introduces a meek bit of manhood named Antoine (Michel Blanc) and his bristling wife, Monique (Miou-Miou), to the outlaw joys of breaking and entering. The film's second hour, however, is a thrashing mess, succumbing like *Police* to mystification. The biggest unfunny joke about *Menage* is that Blier has been congratulated for outgrowing the "unbridled misogyny" of *Going Places* (still his best movie, I think), when the message of *Menage* is that all women are whores—and that men who dress like women become whores too. At the end, Bob and Antoine are both in hooker drag, working the same street on which Monique tries to turn her tricks. And there's nothing tender or advanced about the way Monique is treated. She's chattel, used as a punching bag by Bob, Antoine, and later, her pimp. Like *Police*, *Menage* tries to knock the spunk out of its female star and flatten her into a passive emblem of the spirit of prostitution. Sophie Marceau and Miou-Miou both deserve better than to be buried beneath this thug mystique and male show of flab.

**Round Midnight** • Mighty solemn and mighty slow, Bertrand Tavernier's film tracks tenor-sax legend Dale Turner (Dexter Gordon) on his stately haul to the elephant's graveyard. Said to be based on the careers of jazz greats Bud Powell and Lester Young, *Round Midnight* is a memorial service that reduces jazz to a dirge flavored with murmurous asides. Shot almost entirely on sets designed by Alexandre Trauner, the film lacks sky and weather; its mood is insular, stranded, tender, and as embodied in the shambling eminence of Dexter Gordon, majestically vague. None of this would matter if Tavernier weren't such a square director—Bertrand Blier gets more smoky bustle in the opening shots of *Menage* than Tavernier gets in all of his long seances in the New York and Paris bistro, where Gordon is installed on a stool for the camera's doting inspection. *Round Midnight* doesn't have the brazen thrust of bebop; it's more of an exercise in appreciation. It also perpetuates the notion that jazz musicians are too deep inside their musing skulls to talk much. (Gordon gives a bemused, gallant lilt to his lines, but his deep pauses and heavy eyelids make him look like a big child never far from a nap.) In fact, jazz musicians like Ornette Coleman and Charles Mingus have been masters of brilliant gab, scat artists in word and deed. *Round Midnight* has only one cat talking blue streak, a club impresario played by *Color of Money* director Martin Scorsese. Its sole burst of gusto comes from Sandra Reaves-Philips, a red-hot mama named Buttercup who



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# TEXART EXHIBITIONS



Robert Rauschenberg, *The Parade of the Wicked Thoughts of the Priest (Kabul American Zipper)*, 1981, solvent transfer, acrylic, and collage on wood veneer with objects, 84 x 141 x 19 inches. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. From *Robert Rauschenberg: Work from Four Series: A Sesquicentennial Exhibition*. Photograph courtesy Zindman/Fremont.

TexArt/150 is an association of art museums in Texas that have joined to present a series of exhibitions celebrating the sesquicentennial anniversary of the state. TexArt/150 exhibitions are made possible, in part, by grants from Frito-Lay, Inc., Atlantic Richfield Foundation, Texas Monthly Magazine, and the Texas Commission on the Arts, a state agency.

#### December Exhibitions:

*Robert Rauschenberg: Work from Four Series: A Sesquicentennial Exhibition*, Dallas Museum of Art, December 21–February 8  
*Handmade and Heartfelt: Contemporary Folk Art in Texas*, Laguna Gloria Art Museum, Austin, November 11–January 4  
*Collecting: A Texas Phenomenon*, The McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, November 30–December 31



shakes her jelly hips and belts out big notes. The rest is vespers.

## SMARTY-PANTS CHIC

After the emotional blockage of *Swing Shift*, director Jonathan Demme flushed his system clean with *Stop Making Sense*, the Talking Heads concert film. His new comedy, *Something Wild*, starring Jeff Daniels and Melanie Griffith, has a loosey-goosey, anything-goes madcap spirit. Daniels plays an accountant named Charles who is abducted by a punk chick named Lulu, who drives him to a motel in New Jersey, manacles him to a bed and wearing the black stockings of a dominatrix, treats him to a sexual meltdown. Lulu, whose real name is Audrey, then cruises down to her hometown in Pennsylvania with Charles to attend her high school reunion and pass off her semi-willing captive as her husband. She runs into an old flame named Ray (Ray Liotta), a greaser hood who used to knock over convenience stores and who has just gotten out of the slammer. Liotta is an entertaining actor with a great goofy laugh, but he's playing a hellish sadist not unlike Dennis Hopper in *Blue Velvet*. Once Liotta begins to leave a trail of evil slime across the screen, the movie tilts toward melodrama and slasher horror. Perhaps Demme means to say that this is what constitutes a screwball comedy in the eighties—slapstick spiked with carnage—but the pumped-up hysteria seems cheap and uncalled for. The psychosexual brutality of *Blue Velvet* at least derived from David Lynch's original take on life; the pulp scares of *Something Wild* seem tacked on for a lurid kick. Even more annoying is Demme's insistence on flashing his hip credentials in every scene. Not only does *Something Wild* have directors John Waters and John Sayles in cameo bits and the Feelies performing at the reunion (Demme shoots this unphotogenic New York cult band as if prepping for his next rock video), but it also shows Griffith's Audrey reading a paperback by Winnie Mandela, the wife of imprisoned black South African leader Nelson Mandela, so that the movie can be politically correct. There's something detestable about this film's smarty-pants, lightweight chic. The sole reason to see the film is Melanie Griffith, who proves that her alley-cat performance as the porn star in *Body Double* wasn't a fluke. She's a cocktail shaker in a skintight dress, a volatile mix of purity and corruption whose innocent eyes have seen it all. If Demme wasn't so busy being a cool dude behind the camera, he might have shaped a movie better suited to Griffith's walk-on-the-wild-side talent. Instead, he gives us discount shock effects out of *Psycho*. Reviewing movies today has become a form of slaughterhouse inspection, and it's an inspection *Something Wild* doesn't pass. ♦

# TEXART

The museum members of TexArt 150 organized nineteen art exhibitions in celebration of the Texas Sesquicentennial. These exhibitions traveled to more than thirty venues in our state, helping to make this 150th birthday an important year in Texas history. We are indebted to the highminded corporations who helped to make this possible:

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# WIDE-OPEN BLUES

*A few little-known Texas saxophonists gave jazz its airy heart and earthy soul.*



*Often the best are not the best known: a new album adds Marchel Ivory (l.) and James Clay to the roster of Texas tenor sax masters.*

**F**rom the primal urgency of Herschel Evans with Count Basie in the thirties to the free jazz of Ornette Coleman, the Texas tenor saxophone tradition has supplied much of the heart and guts of jazz. The moan, the blues cry, the wide-open-spaces tone of the best Texas tenors are in the music's blood. But the best are not always the best known. James Clay and Marchel Ivory are Dallas tenor saxophonists who gained some notice in world jazz but decided to come back home. Clay's credentials include work with Wes Montgomery, Red Mitchell, and David "Fathead" Newman. Ivory played with Sonny Stitt and Art Blakey, but Texas jazz listeners know him best for his long association with pianist Red Garland.

Now Clay and Ivory team up with the Paul Guerrero Trio on *Texas Tenors* (Jazz Mark 104), a collection of performances as straightforward as the album's title. Nearly thirty years ago Clay seemed headed toward the kind of bounds-breaking innovation being pioneered by fellow Texan Ornette Coleman. Today Clay's playing, like Ivory's, is squarely in the mainstream. Together, Clay and Ivory remind one of such celebrated tenor duos as Gene Ammons and Sonny Stitt, Dexter Gordon and Wardell Gray, and Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis and Johnny Griffin.

Clay's broad sound and Ivory's lighter, rounder tone combine attractively on three staples of the jazz repertoire, "Wee" (based on "I Got Rhythm"), "Billie's Bounce" (a Charlie Parker blues), and "Prince Albert" ("All the Things You Are," thinly disguised). The pleasant graininess of Clay's tone and his ability to find unexpected notes in a chord are highlighted in his up-tempo treatment of the Richard Rodgers ballad "My Romance." Ivory has an impressive showcase in his own "Jeannie." Drummer Guerrero's trio, a Dallas jazz fixture, is excellent in sup-

port. The solos of pianist Floyd Darling have an intriguing blend of lyricism and muscular exuberance that is reminiscent of the young Bill Evans. Kirby Stewart's strong, interesting bass lines and Guerrero's crisp top cymbals are clearly heard and nicely balanced in this well-engineered recording.

*If Winter Comes . . .* (Jazz Mark 105) contains seven recordings by the alto and tenor saxophonist John Park, who lived in Houston and Dallas in the years before his death in 1979. Park's short, spectacular tour of duty as lead alto and featured soloist with Stan Kenton in the early seventies brought him a reputation that resulted as much from word of mouth among awed musicians as from general familiarity with his work. Park's chronic heart problems forced him to seek rest and medical care in Texas, playing as often as his health allowed.

Park's performances on *If Winter Comes . . .* were recorded at a concert in Kansas City, Missouri, and at a club in Texarkana, Arkansas. On all but one of them he plays alto sax, an instrument of which he had apparently complete mastery, with quicksilver speed, full sound, and perfect intonation—a style based on Charlie Parker's but at times suggestive of Benny Carter and Johnny Hodges. Park's rich melodic and harmonic imagination allowed him to develop a strikingly personal style. There are times when he seems to be prolonging strings of evenly accented eighth notes, riding herd on rhythm sections unprepared to work with a player of his formidable gifts. At other moments, Park soars onto a level of rare creativity, bypassing the quotes, clichés, and standard phrases of the jazz repertory to make totally original music. The sense of loss at Park's early death is increased when one contemplates what he might have played in the company of

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The airiness and earthiness of the Southwest tradition were central to the style of the late Kenny Dorham, a native of Fairfield who was perhaps the least known of the important trumpeters of the bebop era. Dorham also played tenor, and his solo conception on trumpet tended more toward the legato lines and voice-inflected intimacies of saxophonists than the leaps and brassy exclamations of most trumpet soloists. He was a musician of great breadth who could easily fit into a variety of contexts. His tone, attack, and phrasing are immediately identifi-

able; there is no mistaking Dorham for anyone else.

Dorham is at his most engaging in the recently reissued *Meet Oliver Nelson* (Fantasy OJC-227), saxophonist Nelson's 1959 record debut as a leader at age 27. Dorham's solos—particularly those on the blues "Jams and Jellies" and on the ballad "What's New?"—are tempered with wistfulness that was never entirely absent from his playing and helps to account for its unforgettable quality. As for Nelson, who died in 1975, the vigor, logical organization, and humor of his solos made it clear that he would become a major figure as player, composer, and arranger. Pianist Ray Bryant, another unmissable original, is an important part

of the proceedings.

Austin clarinetist Brad Terry has issued the first of a series of albums compiled from the tapes he made with the astonishing guitarist Lenny Breau in the late seventies. Breau's technical gifts were matched by an instinctive feeling for jazz swing and harmonic values, a finely honed sense of humor, and an intense lyricism. Despite his talent, Breau was barely known. He played mostly in Canada, but personal problems resulted in interruptions and long silences. He was found dead in the swimming pool of his apartment house in Los Angeles in 1984. Chet Atkins, himself an icon among guitarists, once said of Breau: "I think if Chopin had played guitar, he would have sounded like Lenny Breau."

Although Breau recorded for RCA in the sixties, his few records are either out of print or on small labels with limited distribution. So Terry's *The Living Room Tapes, Volume I* (Livingroom Records, 149 Main Street, Brunswick, Maine 04011) is a valuable document of his talent. There is much interplay between Breau and Terry, whose clarinet is fleet and liquid. Breau's rhythmic guitar chordings and bass lines accompany his own riveting improvisations, a feat of prescience that Breau accomplished with ease matched only by the master guitarist Jim Hall. The album features a long and joyous performance of an up-tempo blues, an idiom in which Breau excelled but seldom recorded. It's a nice record, a must for people who take guitar seriously, and it introduces Terry as a major clarinetist.

On Jim Hall's *Three* (Concord Records CJ-298) the guitarist's amazing complexity, subtlety, and profundity are distilled into the beauty and simplicity achieved only by the greatest artists. His unaccompanied "Poor Butterfly" never abandons the melody and yet reaches the level of abstraction heard in a Debussy orchestration. In "Bottleneck Blues" Hall records on a twelve-string guitar for the first time, and he manages to evoke simple rural blues while playing elaborate melodic and harmonic constructions and swinging hard. In the album's other five pieces he gives some of his finest solos, and he is joined by bassist Steve LaSpina and drummer Akira Tana for the most integrated trio playing imaginable.

## RIFFS

**E**ddie Harris and Ellis Marsalis, *Homecoming* (Spindletop STP-105). Tenor saxophonist Harris, former hitmaker (theme from *Exodus*), and pianist Marsalis, don of the New Orleans jazz reformation, pair up in a recording of virtuosity, power, daring, and—often—wild humor that approaches total abandon.

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son, *Discernment* (Concord Records GW-3008). Two of Marsalis' former students take a day off from the Art Blakey band, using their New York smarts to update the New Orleans tradition in general and specifically in "When the Saints Go Marching In," which gets new parade clothes.

Joe Henderson, *The State of the Tenor* (Blue Note BT-85123). Henderson is accompanied by only Ron Carter's bass and Al Foster's drums, and his control, taste, and understated strength are remarkable. Recorded at the Village Vanguard, the album is being touted as a tribute or a successor to Sonny Rollins' legendary 1957 Vanguard date. Henderson requires no such comparison. If Rollins were playing this well today, he would have reason to celebrate.

Dick Hyman and Ruby Braff, *Fireworks* (Inner City IC 1153-Lp). Ruby Braff and Scott Hamilton, *A Sailboat in the Moonlight* (Concord Records CJ-296). Braff's classy, unclassifiable cornet permutations are heard with Hyman's piano and with tenor saxophonist Hamilton's increasingly solid quintet. Young Hamilton, who evidently believes he was born forty years too late, has begun to transform his Ben Webster-Coleman Hawkins source material into his own identifiable, pleasant style.

Hamilton joins the formidable saxophonist Gerry Mulligan on *Soft Lights and Sweet Music* (Concord Jazz CJ-300), the latest in a long series of "Mulligan meets . . ." albums, featuring the likes of Johnny Hodges, Ben Webster, Stan Getz, and Paul Desmond. The seven tunes on this album include five new ones by Mulligan. That alone makes the album a special occasion.

Dizzy Gillespie, *Groovin' High* (Musicroft MVS-2009), *One Bass Hit* (Musicroft MVS-2010). These absolutely indispensable sextet and big band recordings from 1945-46 by the seminal trumpet master have been reissued yet again, but this time in the best sound quality they have ever had.

Lilian Terry and Dizzy Gillespie, "*Oo-Shoo-Be-Doo-Be . . . Oo*, " "*Oo . . . Oo, Oo*" (Soul Note SN 1147). In this 1985 recording Dizzy is relaxed, full of fun, and playing well, with vocals by his friend Lilian Terry, the Egyptian-born Italian lyricist and singer. It is almost worth the price of the album to hear Gillespie's "A Night in Tunisia" with Terry's Arabic lyrics.

Dizzy Gillespie, *Closer to the Source* (Atlantic 81646-1). Putting Gillespie in a studio full of soul-fusion musicians seems to have been someone's idea of getting him closer to the source of the money produced by that genre. Let's hope the money he gets from this project lasts longer than the music will. It is almost unrelentingly boring, except for the slight redeeming values of the title track. ♦

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**1** Antlers alert, heads cocked inquisitively, brass reindeer stand guard at your Christmas creche. Made from wire tightly wrapped about a ceramic base, each has a different patina—from golden to green to coppery. Three poses in three sizes range from about five inches to eight and a half inches (three for \$40, Bullard-Jones, Dallas).

**2** You'll see lots of hand-carved wooden Santas, but this is one of the nicest, with a pack thrown over his back, ermine-trimmed jacket and cap, brass buckle, and well-combed beard (\$16.95, Sample House, Dallas).

**3** Mary and Baby Jesus both wear big smiles in this joyful hand-painted wooden wreath made in Sri Lanka. In a charming tropical touch, the greenery has sprouted flowers, despite evidence of snowflakes. The diameter is twelve inches (\$43-\$45, Sample House, Dallas; Hendley Market, Galveston; Harris County Heritage Society's Yesteryear Gift Shop, Houston; Mini Mansions, San Antonio).

**4** The popular rag baskets are reinterpreted for the holidays in red and green, just right for heaping with ornaments, pinecones, nuts, or fruit (four sizes, \$10.95-\$29.95, Whit Banks at Treaty Oak, Austin; Changing Look and Friends, Bellaire; Peak Nutrition Centers, St. Michael's Woman's Exchange, Silks, Dallas; Rugs, Rugs—Antiques, Antiques, Dallas, Galveston; Steamboat Warehouse, Jefferson; Flight of Fancy, San Antonio).

**5** The solemn figures of the Holy Family, assembled Wise Men, and shepherds have an air of inscrutability in this Nativity scene from India. Carved in primitive style from balsa wood, each item is painted by hand (\$20-\$22, Craig's of Austin; Hendley Market, Galveston).

**6** With a cluck-cluck here and a moo-moo there, these copper ornaments in animal and seasonal motifs will brighten your holiday. Hand-made by Dale Holly of Fredericksburg in sizes from three to five inches, they are dipped in clear lacquer for many shining years on your tree (\$3.75-\$4.25, Living Desert Nursery, Austin; For Heaven's Sake, Dallas; the Peach Tree, Fredericksburg; Sunpy's Carousel, Marble Falls; Brichac 'n Brass, San Antonio).

EDITED BY PATRICIA SHARPE

## THE LAST RESORT

[ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 158 ] (to be known as Belize Power and Light, which would own the planned hydroelectric plant), a retirement community, and a bank.

Jackson is one of several dozen Texans who have decided that Belize, a two-hour flight from Houston, offers what Texas had a long generation ago: wide-open opportunity, little government interference, and a good business climate. The Texans who bring their plans to Belize range from the scramblers trying to sell Belize's slightly overzealous government on their personal traveling circus to one of the most powerful businessmen in Houston, Allied Bancshares chairman Walter Mischler. Other Texans own hotels, vacation-home developments, adventure-travel businesses, mahogany forests, clothing-assembly plants, and land waiting to be turned into orange groves or cattle ranches. You want to make it in Texas today? Come to Belize.

The romance started in July 1970, when Jerry McDermott, then head of a six-man Houston energy investment company, came to Belize looking for oil. Instead he found Paradise. A friend took him to Ambergris Caye, an island twenty miles off the Belize mainland. McDermott fell in love with a piece of land in San Pedro, Ambergris' tiny fishing village. He loved it so much that he bought it. "I was divorced, and my kids were grown," he says. "The company had a series of dry holes and was in poor shape. I got out a bottle of Scotch. I said, 'Have a drink, everyone—when this bottle's gone, I'm gone.' He went back to San Pedro with \$10,000. "There was a small building that four nuns had lived in," McDermott says. "They had found a piece of driftwood and painted 'Paradise' on it. The land was a swamp. I chopped mangrove trees and filled it with sand. I built buildings and seawall. There wasn't any electricity. That building was the office, my house, the bar, and the rooms. I ran back and forth to Houston to get people to come here."

McDermott interrupts his story to go to the refrigerator in his luxurious wicker-and-wood-stuffed house and fix himself a drink. He is wearing his work clothes: a pair of white shorts. His house overlooks what Paradise has become: a \$2 million hotel, offering thatched-roof cabanas, swimming, scuba diving, snorkeling and fishing trips, and arguably the best restaurant in Belize. "We've had Bobby Moody, Roy and Harry Cullen, Trammell Crow, and W. W. Caruth here," he says, dropping some Texan names. "Eight out of the top forty on the Forbes 400 have been guests here." As I sit talking to Linda, his wife, the crew of the television show *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* walk by—

they are going to take actor Michael Paré scuba diving.

Some of the Texans who visited Ambergris Caye began to buy land themselves, and then as business in Texas worsened, they bought more than land. "You can't spit out the window without hitting someone from Houston," says American-born Emory King, a Belizean entrepreneur and the nation's resident philosopher, who has been in Belize since 1953, when his planned world cruise ran aground on the reef. Among those within spitting distance are A. W. Dugan, a Houston petroleum investor with plans to develop a 250-lot vacation-home subdivision to be called Club Caribbean. A group of Texans that includes Houstonians Browne Rice, Flavy Davis, and Ab Fay own another luxury hotel on Ambergris Caye, the Victoria House. "I go wearing shorts to see my banker," Fay says. He recalls of the hotel's construction in 1980, "We brought the sand and gravel from Belize City on sailboats. Then we ran out of nails. There were no nails on Ambergris. We went to Belize City. There were no nails in Belize City."

A little thing like a whole country running out of nails might discourage other investors, but Texans seem to lap it up. The Texans in Belize love to tell stories about its frontier-town qualities and the government's wild infatuation with foreign investment. You can buy Belizean citizenship for a \$12,500 application fee and a government-approved investment plan, and foreign businesses routinely receive tax holidays and ten-year duty-free importation of goods. The country of Belize offers the nostalgic Texan not only the perfect business climate but also the perfect climate, period. Coming to Belize has less in common with taming the West than with being one of the first settlers in St.-Tropez.

Belizean businessmen and government officials have taken frequent trips north to seek Houston investment. Two months after his election in November 1984, Manuel Esquivel, the conservative prime minister, and several government and business leaders flew to Houston in Kieth Jackson's Learjet. They met Mayor Kathy Whitmire, her erstwhile opponent Louie Welch, businessmen, and convention promoters, movie promoters, and tourism promoters. The tour guides, says Belize Chamber of Commerce president Kent McField, were Walter Mischler and his frequent associate, Houston investor Paul Howell.

Mischler and Howell, who declined to be interviewed, had come to Belize in November 1984 to attend opening ceremonies for Jackson's shrimp farm, in which they are part owners. Malcolm Barnebey, who was then the U.S. ambassador and is now a consultant to Mischler and Howell, introduced them to many of the Belizean leaders whom they ended up

hosting in Houston. By the spring of 1985, says Barnebey, the two men were considering an investment. In October the partnership they led bought one eighth of Belize.

What the partnership bought was a 700,000-acre piece of jungle in northwestern Belize. Thirty per cent of the parcel went to Houston-based Coca-Cola Foods, which plans to grow oranges for its Minute Maid orange juice brand, and 40 per cent will be retained by Barry Bowen, who is the most powerful businessman in Belize. Mischler and Howell will own the remaining 30 per cent of the land package.

Operating on a somewhat smaller scale at his shrimp farm, known as Maya Mari-culture, is Kieth Jackson. To him, Belize's lack of infrastructure is an invitation to come build one. "It's totally, completely undeveloped," he says, with a booming laugh and his belly jiggling. "With Texas cash and Texas ideas, you could do something."

When Jackson gets to talking about the future, his words sound uncannily like those that people once used about Texas. "Anything you can think of can be promulgated in Belize," says Jackson. "Real estate, any kind of business. There's plenty of cheap labor, no taxes, no labor unions. If I were head of Chrysler, I'd build a major assembly plant down there. But if you're going to be an ugly American, stay home. They want partners—if you're going to go and run over people, stay home."

Emory King says that Jackson once told guests at a Belize dinner party, "Like it or not, you all are going to become Texanized." Not all Belizeans welcome such an occurrence, however. Many are suspicious, precisely because the same atmosphere of Texas-size possibility that attracts Jackson has brought others to Belize before.

"Belize is a mirage," says King. "This is one of the last places in the world for crazy ideas. We're a tolerant society; we just nod and say yes. They get off the airplane here, and they say, 'Good God, these people are all asleep! I can do anything here—make a million dollars.' Nobody disabuses them, but they find out eventually you can't make a million dollars."

"Any idea to make money has been tried here in Belize," says the commercial attaché at the American Embassy. He adds that between 25 and 30 per cent of his visitors are Texans asking advice on a project. "You get lots of smooth talkers, especially from Texas," says chamber president McField. "We had one man who asked for a fuel import exemption for more fuel than would generate energy for Belize for a year." He shrugs; this, after all, is Belize. "You get all kinds of con men when you need investors so much." ♦

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## LESSONS FROM THE GOLDEN APPLE

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 143] as little of their own money as possible. Whenever anyone would ask P&J's rate of return, Gardner would answer, "Infinity."

Instructive Parallel Number One: Let's say you're an erstwhile lease broker who has managed to get in debt up to his eyebrows but has neglected to accumulate any assets. Well, next time around don't do it that way. Bring along some assets. Then, should things turn nasty down the road, throw some assets in the direction of your banker. This will possibly dampen his impulse to test the resiliency of your kneecaps or to put you through a bologna slicer. Try not to get hung up on a narrow definition of "asset." Surely you own something. Why assume that someone to whom you owe \$12 million is incapable of appreciating that something's intrinsic worth?

"It's rough times," says veteran realtor Harry Helmsley. "I went through the Depression and it's the same dog-eat-dog thing now." The vacancy rate in Manhattan is now up to 18 percent, the highest since 1939. . . . Worst of all, white-collar employment in the city has actually declined since 1969. . . . As one [developer] says when asked about supply and demand, "All I need is one good tenant." The trouble is, there aren't enough such good tenants to go around and probably won't be. —Fortune, February 1975

In retrospect, it appears that the market had nudged bottom when P&J in 1975 bought a 50,000-square-foot building, at the corner of Seventh Avenue and Sixteenth Street, whose tenant was a knitting factory. The price was \$400,000, and P&J's deposit on contract was \$10,000. Of this amount, \$6000 was borrowed from a friend.

"It was doomsday. Everyone was fleeing the city. Only schmucks were buying," says Gardner.

"Dumb schmucks," Weisman corrects him.

Instructive Parallel Number Two: In Texas real estate now, the opportunities for dumb schmucks are almost limitless. At least once in your life, pay attention to the right dumb schmuck, and shame on you if you pick the wrong dumb schmuck.

A ghastly possibility, however, hung over the heads of Weisman, Gardner, and their bankers—namely, that the City of New York might default on its debt obligations. One bank made a commitment to P&J for a mortgage loan but not for a construction loan. Another bank, which had verbally agreed to a construction loan, abruptly reneged. In no sense were the bankers behaving unreasonably; if the city

was about to go down the tubes, what was to stop the real estate market from going with it? Who needed it? This impasse occurred at a time when P&J owed its subcontractors hundreds of thousands of dollars from a previous job. Without fresh financing, no new project could begin. Without a new project, P&J lacked the means to pay the subcontractors. This meant, quite plainly, that P&J was about to become extinct. This circumstance caused some distress to the developers. To alleviate it, Gardner called a senior bank officer, with whom he had dealt earlier. The banker asked the loan officer whether he had made a verbal commitment to P&J, and the officer admitted he had. So the bank again changed its mind and granted the loan.

The elements of P&J's little drama were played out on a larger scale later in the year. With New York City facing default, the White House refused to grant federal emergency-loan assistance, and the *New York Daily News* published its now famous headline, FORD TO CITY: DROP DEAD. The headline had a galvanizing effect. One thing led to another—I am skipping more than a few details—and eventually there came into being the Municipal Assistance Corporation, a state-controlled entity that in effect put the City of New York into receivership but made it possible for the city government to re-enter the credit markets and fund its day-to-day business.

Instructive Parallel Number Three: Texas, stop bragging about your innate greatness, about how you'll come out of this stronger and better than ever. Just as in the case of New York City, the rest of the country wants to see you humbled. Make things look as bad as possible. Float a rumor that you're about to go under. Then you might get some help. And quit crying in your Dos Equis that you don't have a Felix Rhotatyn to come down there and crunch numbers for you. Texas has great natural resources—human resources: H. Ross Perot, Willie Nelson, Harvey Martin, my cousin Morris in Lubbock. I bet y'all think of something.

The basic problem, surplus space, is not going to disappear for ten years or more, even if New York's office jobs start growing strongly again—and the prospects for that are dim.

—Fortune, February 1975

Despite the apocalyptic predictions of an endless real estate bust, what happened next was the unrestrained gentrification of several of Manhattan's previously unsexy neighborhoods, and Gardner and Weisman were in the vanguard. In place of the knitting factory they created 69 apartments. The first week that the apartments went on the market, a quarter of them were rented. Then, swiftly, the rest were rented. There has never been a vacancy.

Without question, P&J had discovered

# Walter Pye's

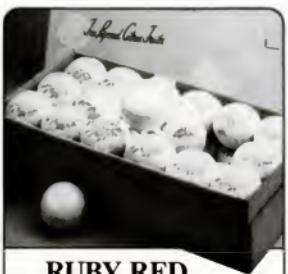


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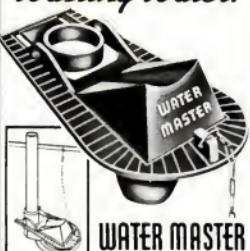
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a new market. As the prospect of municipal bankruptcy faded, New York City once again appeared attractive to the middle class. It was not just painters, sculptors, and fashion designers who were willing to rent or buy a raw half or full floor in a frontier neighborhood. Now it was lawyers, dentists, young execs, socialists with trust funds, and bedraggled journalists.

Today, the same raw space for which P&J had paid \$400,000 would go for \$5 million. As I've said, Gardner and Weisman are rich. They've accomplished this by avoiding megalomania and by learning how not to overextend themselves at the bank. Pointing at a calendar from 1979, Gardner says, "From then on we made money." Of course, so did everyone else who at that time invested in Manhattan real estate.

Instructive Parallel Number Four: Most folks merely got lucky and could just as easily have gotten unlucky. It is better to be lucky than unlucky. If you do manage to stumble across some good luck, never ever assume that you have perpetrated an act of wisdom. In 1979 P&J sold a raw two-thousand-square-foot loft to my wife and me. I'm told we could turn a nice profit should we decide to sell it and buy that big mobile home and those good-as-new pumping units off that fellow we keep hearing from in Borger. If we were wiser—or maybe dumber—we would take him up on it. As my cousin Morris in Lubbock likes to say, "Good judgment comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgment."

"The question is how long can the developers take it," says . . . [the] head of Prudential's Manhattan real-estate-investment department, "because if they cannot, it is we, their lenders, who are going to be stuck."

—Fortune, February 1975

For the past decade Gardner and Weisman have diversified in ways that you would have to be from New York to regard as diversification. They have built more rental apartments, and they have built condominiums; they have bought an entire block on Fifth Avenue, where they have renovated a quarter-million square feet of office space; and they have taken rental buildings that they renovated years ago and sold them to the tenants as co-ops, in the process paying off notes and pocketing more-than-tidy amounts of cash. Most of this activity has transpired in a neighborhood that used to not have a name but is now frequently referred to as "the newly fashionable Flatiron District"—i.e., north of Greenwich Village. Evidently, you become fashionable when you get freshly colonized by advertising agencies, publishers, architecture and design firms, California nouvelle cuisine beaneries, and unpronounceable boutiques.

Instructive Parallel Number Five: I do

not think the solution to Texas' problems is to try to make the state more fashionable. Being fashionable means supporting a bunch of extra overhead. Figure out a way to make Texas smaller. Smaller means scarcer, scarcer means more valuable. And smaller definitely cuts down on your monthly nut.

*But it is not the nature of entrepreneurs to dwell for long on gloom. The veterans among them have survived through thick times and thin. . . . "The strong builders will survive this thing," says developer Harry Hemsley, "but the weaker ones—those without adequate financing—are going to go under."*

*Because the developers are entrepreneurs and eternal optimists, those that do survive will look beyond the mist toward a brighter future for New York.*

—Fortune, February 1975

Ask Joe Gardner, the accountant-turned-real-estate-baron, what he thinks when he reads about the tribulations of, say, John Connally, the baron-turned-prodigious-debtor, and he will offer an instructive parallel of his own: "The difference between us and those guys is they're crazy. What Connally was doing was shooting dice."

Gardner, it seems, has a gift for sensing when the dice are turning cold. In the late seventies he sniffed the wind drifting up from Texas and wangled an introduction to some real decent people from Midland who were successfully drilling gas wells all over Texas and Louisiana (Gardner met these people from Midland through some of his real decent accounting clients). At the time, he and his family were living in a rent-stabilized apartment. In 1981 he finally decided to trade up. For \$650,000, he bought a three-bedroom urban Xanadu on Sutton Place. Interest rates were then around 20 per cent, but Gardner was able to cover the mortgage payments with his monthly oil and gas income. Then, as he envisioned P&J's owning a block on Fifth Avenue, Gardner envisioned himself being strapped for cash. So at the end of 1981 he quit investing new money in oil and gas. Inadvertently, he got out at the peak of the boom. His monthly oil and gas runs—down by 70 per cent—no longer pay the mortgage, but he still has the means to make his payments on time.

Just about everything Gardner and Weisman have laid their hands on since they bought that knitting factory has turned out very nicely indeed. How long can it last? Are there any spare greenbacks in Midland that some real decent people should stick into New York real estate? All businesses are supposed to be cyclical—what goes around is supposed to come around—but this up tick has unusual stamina. It is ten years running now. You think I *really* know which way it's headed? If I do, you think I'm telling you?\*

# A U S T I N

KIRK TUCK



## A S T A T E O F M I N D

**Possibly the most difficult thing for an Austinite to do is to define, in a comprehensive yet concise and easily understandable form, the Austin state of mind. One could begin by trying to define Austinites. Are they the lawyers, politicos, and lobbyists that swarm about the Capitol building, or are they more like the University of Texas crowd, who are all either in school, teaching**

**B Y M A R Y M A T H I A S**

school, studying for school, or planning to go back to school? Are Austinites like the real estate developers and progress-minded business people who are responsible for all the new buildings downtown, or are the majority members of the numerous environmentalist groups and neighborhood associations that fought against that development? Since Austin was chosen by the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation (MCC), not to mention IBM, Texas Instruments, Motorola, Lockheed, and Tracor, as its Texas home, could it be that the city is now overrun with high-tech engineers and computer software salesmen?

So it seems the problem with defining Austinites is that they defy definition; they are different types of people, with varying interests and priorities. Each of those groups contributes a bit of its own style and character to the healthy schizophrenia that gives the city its image. Austin is not just where these people live, it's who they are.

In general, when it comes to personal choice and opinion, Austinites maintain an open-minded, "whatever" attitude, which gets much of the credit for the variety of art, music, and entertainment to be found here. When it comes to the city itself, however, there are some serious dos and don'ts, the unwritten power of which has toppled many an outsider's grand plans for Austin. The city is enmeshed in a weird system of checks and balances created by Austinites' innate love

of what the city was fifteen years ago and a rumbling excitement over what the city could become. During the real estate boom following MCC's decision to move here in 1983, it looked like Austin would move so quickly into the future that its past would be left behind. Fortunately, that didn't happen. And however overbuilt Austin may seem today, without that peculiar game of push and pull back that was played out by environmentalists and developers, the current situation could be much worse. Instead, Austin is on a growth track, and the unemployment rate here is still one of the lowest in the state. The future of Austin, and of Austinites, is bright with promise.

### New directions.

Austin in the early seventies was very different from the city it is today. The Capitol building and the UT Tower still dominated the skyline. An old Woolworth's five-and-dime occupied the corner of Sixth and Congress where One American Center now stands. Hippies were flocking to the Armadillo World Headquarters, an old airplane-hangar-turned-concert hall on Barton Springs Road at South First, where One Texas Center is now. Sixth Street was just that—a street—and not a place you went after dark if you valued your safety. West Lake Hills was "pretty far out there," and if you lived north of Anderson Lane you were considered a pioneer.

As the price of oil rose, state budgets got fatter and services were expanded, which meant more jobs in Austin. With the growing population needing somewhere to live and work, the residential and commercial real estate industries geared up to meet the demand. Then John Naisbitt called Austin a megatrend city, and so many new buildings went up that the crane (the construction crane, that is) was not-so-jokingly called the official bird of Austin.

Unfortunately, the good times came to an abrupt halt at the beginning of this year with the sudden drop in oil prices. As the state's coffers began to cough with thirst, the prosperity Austin had enjoyed was threatened. If the money wasn't going to come from the state, or real estate, or high-tech companies, then another source of revenue would have to be courted. Enter tourism.

"The best thing for development of tourism in Austin was the state's economic downturn," says David Lord, vice president of the chamber of commerce's Convention and Visitors Council. It made people think again about promoting the city's historical, artistic, and cultural resources, explains Lord, resources whose values don't fluctuate with the economy. "When we looked at all the old tourism slide shows, the arguments for a tourist trade were right there—clean money, good jobs. Not to say we should just open the doors to anyone, but a Six Flags is not the right market for Austin.

MARK ELLIS



© "Developers complain about the rules and regulations imposed by the city council about keeping trees and creeks intact, but the beauty created by those trees and creeks is what has kept Austin a desirable community. It's that kind of a delicate balance between the business community and the environmental community that has helped Austin to prosper."

Doyle Wilson, developer



**• The Town Lake hike and bike trail heads the list as the favorite of more than 22 miles of trails along scenic waterways.**

But we can certainly decide which market is for Austin and make plans to capture it. Right now, with the plans for the new Laguna Gloria Art Museum, we're thinking more along the lines of a planetarium and a children's museum to attract the education- and culture-oriented visitor."

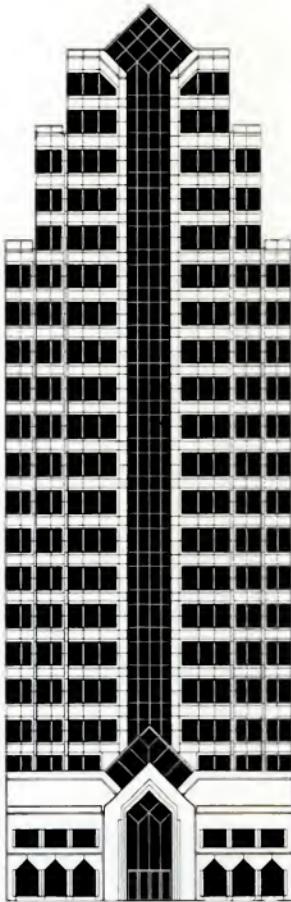
With the Capitol, the University, and Austin's Central Texas location providing natural focal points for tourism, Lord says that Austin has the opportunity to develop promotions based on state history, architecture, education, and the natural beauty of the Texas Hill Country. As a matter of fact, the council has developed nineteen different tours for visitors, using Austin as a hub for travel throughout the Hill Country. These prepackaged tours provide maps to certain points of interest, restaurants, and hotels along the way. Planning these trips for people doesn't take a lot of money, explains Lord, just some imagination.

One area of visitor revenue for Austin that has come under closer scrutiny in the past few months has been the development of a convention center. With all the new hotels in town, proceeds from the hotel bed tax needed to fund construction of convention facilities should get a boost. Austin's Robert Mueller Airport is serviced by eleven airlines, and any plans for moving the airport to a larger site or expanding the current site could only be good news for the convention business. Right now, Southwest Airlines has the most flights into and out of the city, departing Austin with 35 flights daily.

And so the city council, along with Austin's other movers and shakers, is continuing with studies and proposals for con-

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• The San Jacinto Center will soon have a boat house for the Austin Rowing Club, which will make Austin a possible contender as a training site for the Olympic rowing team.

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An advertisement for the Heartbreak Cafe & Bar. The main logo features the words "bop-in!" above "The HEARTBREAK Cafe & Bar". The "HEARTBREAK" part is in a stylized font with a heart symbol, set against a red and white checkered background. Below the main logo is the address "13096 Research Austin, Texas 78750" and the phone number "512-331-5545". To the right is a circular graphic divided into four quadrants, with the words "ALL AMERICAN CAFE" at the top and "DO WOP WITH A TWIST" around the bottom edge.

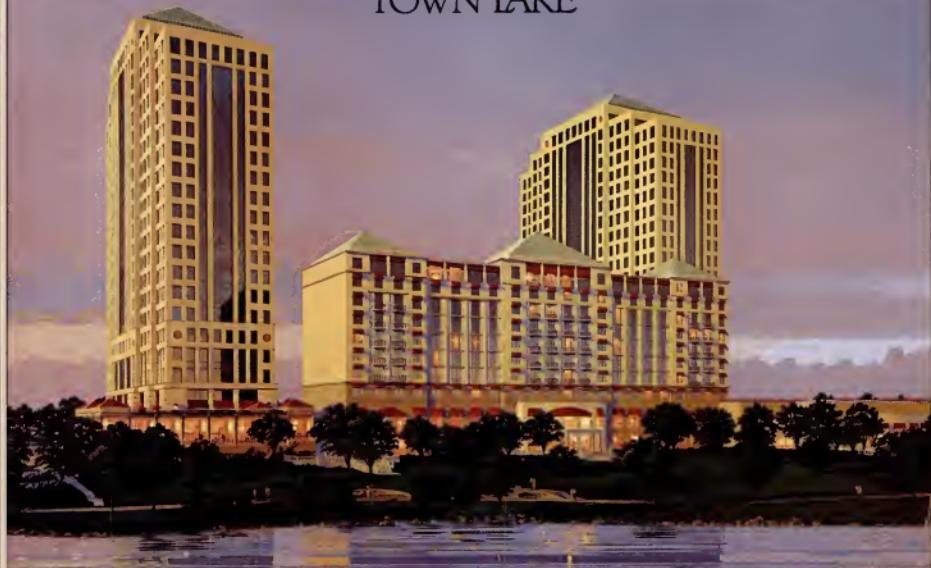
vention center sites. The optimism and forge-ahead attitude is standard for Austinites. When faced with a challenge, they don't throw up their hands, they roll up their sleeves. Consequently, Austin is weathering the tough economic times rather nicely, and much of the credit goes to the city's business sector. Its hard work for and firm belief in Austin are major factors in Austin's continued growth.

**B**usiness with pleasure. As is most often the case when a city experiences a real estate boom, Austin became a victim in 1983 of a few projects and residential developments by purely profit-motivated builders. They were here for the money to be made, not for the value they could add to the community, and their priorities are evident in the buildings and neighborhoods that resulted. Luckily, however, most of the builders and developers in Austin consider the city and its people first and strive to build projects that enhance the community.

One such project is Austin Centre, which opened in September. Built by Encore Development Corporation, Webb/Knighton Ventures, and Carlson Properties, Austin Centre is a \$130 million mixed-use complex



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A two acre **Plaza** enlivens the complex and is surrounded by 40,000 square feet of shopping and dining amenities.

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including an office tower, the 314-room Radisson Plaza Hotel, five floors of corporate residential condominiums, retail shops, and restaurants. The building provides a complete business environment for its tenants and uses architectural detailing attuned to its immediate environment so as not to look out of place downtown. The public spaces and walkways are designed as people places because the building's location at 701 Brazos bustles with pedestrian traffic. All in all, Austin Centre is a welcome addition to the central business district, reflecting the owners' sensitivity to both the needs of Austin's business community and the maintenance of Austin's beauty.

Another addition to downtown that is well worth noting is the San Jacinto Center Town Lake, a project of Southland Investment Properties. Featuring 416,000 square feet of office space, a 308-room Four Seasons Hotel, a restaurant overlooking the lake, and several retail shops, the San Jacinto Center will welcome Austinites through its doors around Christmastime this year with a sixty-foot Christmas tree set down in the midst of its two-acre landscaped plaza. That sort of community involvement will not end after the holidays, either, as Southland has mounted major efforts to become a part of the fabric of Austin. Occupying a lakefront site, the San Jacinto Center was planned to be as attractive from the water as from the street. Therefore, Southland is setting aside \$740,000 for the development of a park area along the waterfront, with new trees, shrubs, and indigenous plant life stretching from Congress to Waller Creek. In addition, the San Jacinto Center has begun construction of a boat house that will become home to the Austin Rowing Club. Because Town Lake is one of the finest lakes in the country for rowing, this home base for the club should focus national attention on Austin and allow it to compete as a training site for the Olympic rowing team.

A few blocks up from Town Lake, at Congress and Sixth, is Rust Properties' One American Center. One of the first big developments downtown, its beige limestone towers are a dominant force on the skyline. Offering some of the finest office space available in the area, One American Center also has two levels of retail space plus the Metropolitan Club, a complete athletic facility and luxuriously private getaway for harried executives. The Metropolitan Club has weights, a running track, racquetball courts, and aerobics classes. The dining areas serve a full breakfast, lunch, and din-



## An Austin Original Is Nearing Completion. The Four Seasons Hotel Austin opens in January.

This January, the waiting will be over and the excitement will begin as we unveil the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin.

As a Four Seasons hotel, we cling to the seldom-observed notion that a hotel should adapt to its guests, not the other way around. To do that, we begin with an excellent location, one that fits your demands for work and play. The Four Seasons is con-

veniently located on Austin's beautiful Town Lake, so you can enjoy jogging trails along the lake and quiet gardens for your dining and viewing pleasure. Yet you're minutes from 6th Street, the Capitol and The University of Texas. We think it's a location you'll find ideal, for it is the embodiment of Austin's commitment to quality in your personal and business life.

This January, come and experience an Austin original.



**Four Seasons Hotel**  
**AUSTIN**

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IT'S WORTH WAITING FOR.

ner menu, and there are private meeting rooms for the members' business gatherings.

Equally bountiful in its contributions to the Austin community is Trammell Crow's 301 Congress. The 22-story tower consists of office space, a 3-story atrium, retail shops, and a restaurant. And to indulge Austinites' love of all things historic, the building will house a permanent display case for the prehistoric mastodon bones found at the 301 Congress construction site.

Another developer who has always been conscious of his projects' effect on the city is Doyle Wilson. Wilson attended the University of Texas, fell in love with Austin,

#### Special Advertising Section

and stayed on after graduation to build his career. And build he did. During his senior year in college, Wilson began building custom homes one and two at a time. In 1975 he built one for the Parade of Homes and got contracts to build fifteen more, and the orders kept coming. In 1984, however, at the height of the building boom, Wilson sold his business.

"There was no reality in the marketplace anymore," says Wilson. "The Austin boom went crazy, and I didn't like it. I decided to just cash my chips in and sit on the sidelines for a while." During that brief hiatus, Wilson traveled all over the country looking at

different houses and communities, talking to architects, studying floor plans. In 1986 he was ready to get back to Austin, excited about his new ideas and approaches. Letting his knowledge of and love for Austin serve as a guide, Wilson took just six months to go from zero to a ranking of third-largest builder in the city. He has his own mortgage company and is successfully dabbling in commercial real estate as well. Wilson's Plaza on the Lake complex, on Loop 360 at the bridge over Lake Austin, is 85 per cent leased, a relatively high occupancy for the current Austin market.

Concerning his success, Wilson says, "Everyone wants the American Dream of their own single, detached home with a tree and a yard, and Austin can offer that. I was in New York recently for business and noticed all the pollution and the crowds and the concrete. Then, flying back into Austin, I noticed the trees and the hills and the lakes. Austin is just a pretty place to be, and we need to work to keep it that way. Developers complain about the rules and regulations imposed by the city council about keeping trees and creeks intact, but the beauty created by those trees and creeks is what has kept Austin a desirable community. It's that kind of a delicate balance between the business community and the environmental community that has helped Austin to prosper."

Nowhere is that delicate balance more aptly illustrated than at Austin's premier lake resort and residential community, Lakeway. Founded in 1963, Lakeway is 5500 acres of

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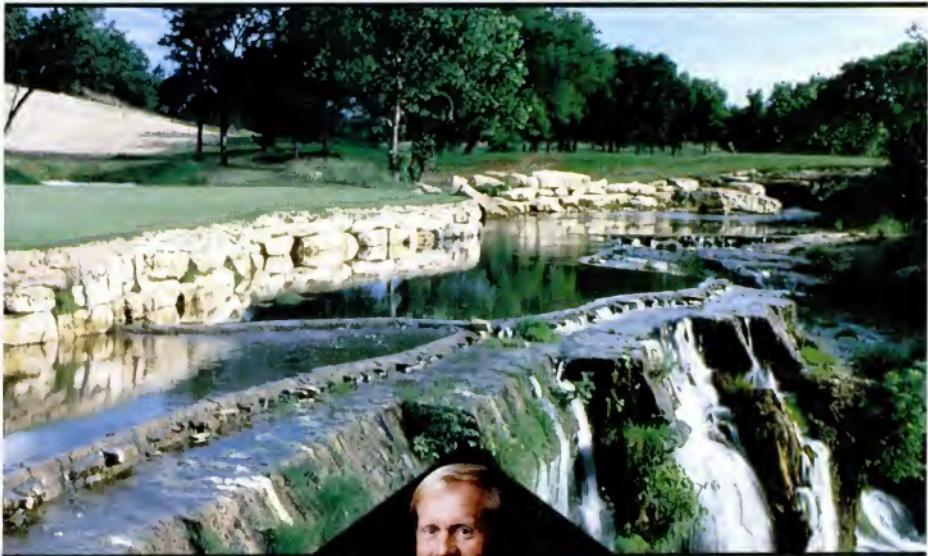


• In Austin, sounds of the city include everything from salsa to symphony, rock and roll, rhythm and blues, C&W, and a wide variety of new, experimental music.

the most beautiful land on Lake Travis. Featuring a 350-slip marina, several golf courses, a private airpark, the World of Tennis (recently named one of the fifty best places to play tennis in the country), and the guest and convention accommodations of Lakeway Inn, this community is a perfect example of the Austin lifestyle. Residents who work in Austin have a short thirty-minute commute through rolling hills and past scenic vistas, and when they return home after a hard day, they can relax with a boat ride out on the lake, a cocktail on a porch overlooking the Texas Hill Country, or a round of golf on the Jack Nicklaus-designed course at the Hills of Lakeway, established in 1981. The secrets of this paradisiacal environment were recently discovered by the American Retirement Corporation, and construction will begin soon on the Summit, a master-planned retirement community.

**A**ustin has long been a mecca for artists. In the sixties it took on the demeanor of a Haight-Ashbury of Texas, a liberal environment where painters, craftsmen, and other free spirits could express themselves. The art has changed since then,

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Academy of Golf, Equestrian Center, Airpark, Lakeway Inn and Marina on deep, blue, 65-mile-long Lake Travis.

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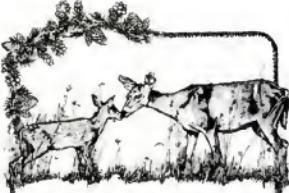
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both in style and quality. But Austin's reputation as an environment for expression remains intact. Boasting the sixth-largest concentration of working artists in the country, Austin has an enviable cadre of creativity. Glass art, weaving, furniture design, pottery, painting, doll-making, folk art, sculpture, and even performance art are genres that have found homes here. And the arts community will receive a big boost in 1989 with the opening of the new Laguna Gloria Art Museum, designed by the internationally acclaimed architecture firm of Venturi, Rauch and Scott Brown. In anticipation of the museum's success, several gallery owners and artists have relocated to the area surrounding the museum site. Shops such as Matrix Gallery and the R. S. Levy Gallery at 333 Guadalupe and Michael Carey, Inc., at 318 Colorado join the already established Arts Warehouse as the founding tenants of what is sure to become Austin's arts district, bounded roughly by Colorado to the east, First Street to the south, San Antonio to the west, and Fourth Street to the north.

Several other notable galleries are spread throughout the city, bringing a dizzying array of local talent to the unsuspecting eye. Eagle's Nest Gallery (1202 San Antonio), Cowgirls & Flowers (508 Walsh), Fire Island Hot Glass Studio (500 East Fourth), Hill Country Weavers (918 West Twelfth), El Taller (723 East Sixth), and the Artisans (10000 Research, the Arboretum) are a sampling of the best.

sonality. Whether you prefer classical or country-and-western, soul or swing, it's easy to match the music to your mood in the dozens of clubs offering live music every night of the week.

The Austin Symphony Orchestra, currently conducted by Maestro Sung Kwak, was founded in the early 1900s. With the completion of the world-class Performing Arts Center on the UT campus in 1981, the symphony moved its performances there from the Municipal Auditorium. The season usually runs from September through May, and information is available by calling 476-6064.

Being at the heart of the Texas Hill Country, Austin has an abundance of good ol' Texas cowboys. And where there are cowboys, there is country-and-western music. Willie Nelson lives here, and a host of other musicians consider Austin their home away from home, giving Austin a wealth of good C&W music on any given weekend. Two-stepping couples can scuffle across the floor at several appropriately named dance halls in town: the Broken Spoke (3201 South Lamar), the North Forty (7934 Great Northern Boulevard) and South Forty (804 West Ben White), Pardners (1527 South IH 35), and the Country Palace (16511 Bratton Lane).

Jumping the border from Texas-style tunes, Austin also is home to the Latin sound. Bands like Beto y Los Fairlanes and Los Lobos helped popularize this type of music, and more traditional salsa bands play a regular gig at Club Islas, 217 Congress Avenue. Another sound from south of the border—and across the Gulf of Mexico—is

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Austin Opera House

200 ACADEMY · AUSTIN, TEXAS



*Come to The Quorum in Austin and delight in a fresh, innovative cuisine spiced with the personality and style of Chef Jonathan Bennett.*



reggae, and Austin's Liberty Lunch, at Second and Guadalupe, has become a favorite haunt for Rasta fans.

Good old rock and roll still exists, too. You can find any number of good bands on various nights at the Continental Club (1315 South Congress), Mid-City Roadhouse (700 East Sixth), Steamboat (403 East Sixth), and other clubs around town. And don't be concerned about the guy with a purple mohawk standing next to you. You're in Austin, so chances are he's got a Ph.D.

If you get religious about rhythm and blues, Austin provides several temples for praise. The Austin Opera House (200 Academy) features some of the best R&B artists in the country. Antone's (2915 Guadalupe) consistently presents outstanding blues musicians and was a favorite of such now popular artists as the Fabulous Thunderbirds and Stevie Ray Vaughan. For the jazz enthusiast, Baxter's (416 East Sixth) shudders with wailing saxophones and smooth improvisations to a packed house almost every night.

**O**n the town.  
Nightlife in Austin runs the gamut from quiet candlelit dinners to gyrations on dance floors until 4 a.m. The rainbow palette of sights, sounds, and savory delights leaves only yourself to blame if you're bored in Austin.

Recommending a restaurant here is akin to recommending an ice cream flavor at Baskin Robbins; there are so many delicious choices that it all depends on personal preference. Mexican food seems the runaway favorite in Austin and is available for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late night. Regional Texas food is probably the next favorite, with every chef boasting the best chicken-fried steak in the world. Chinese and Italian dishes are available at the busy take-out joints as well as at more elegant establishments. And Austin's less well-known but equally delicious food choices might include Lebanese, Greek, Armenian, Thai, Indian, and Bohemian.

The Performing Arts Center, just north of Memorial Stadium on the University of Texas campus, the Zachary Scott Theatre Center at 1421 West Riverside, and the Paramount Theatre at 713 Congress maintain tight schedules for the arts in Austin. A telephone call to the particular box offices (Performing Arts Center, 471-1444; Zachary Scott, 476-0541; Paramount, 472-5411) will tell you what's on their performance platters for the next several weeks.

A large portion of Austin's after-six activities, however, occur on Sixth Street. How one section of one street manages to support so many bars and restaurants is a marketing mystery. Once a haunt for prostitutes and drug dealers, Sixth Street (roughly the section from IH 35 west to Brazos) was rediscovered in the seventies by Austin's architects and preservationists. The street was lined with beautifully constructed one- and two-story buildings dating from the late 1800s. Whether a little run-down or in despicable states of repair, these structures were a restorationist's dream, and so the transformation began.

As facades were spruced up, rents began to climb, and more and more Austinites were venturing downtown after dark to wander in and out of the new, high-priced clubs and eateries that began to proliferate. Today there are dozens of clubs, restaurants, and retail shops on the six-block stretch. And even though the street continues through downtown and into West Austin, the idea of Sixth Street as a dining, drinking, dancing empire pertains largely to East Sixth. The majority of the crowds are college and just-past-college age, but there are also several spots for the not-quite geriatric, too. If watching else, an hour or two spent people-watching should prove amusing.

Finding a spot away from the crowds for an evening out is getting more difficult as the city grows, but it's not impossible. Smaller restaurants and a few good hangouts are hidden away on side streets, serving as the last bastions for the way Austin was. Some favorites are Austin's Courtyard (1205 North Lamar), Scholz Garten (1607 San Jacinto), which is uncomfortably crowded only before UT home football games, the Cedar Door (506 East First), and the Quorum, which provides a beautiful view of the city lights from atop the United Bank Tower at 400 West Fifteenth Street.

**S**hop around. In the past, Austin bowed to Dallas and Houston as the leaders in the state's retail industry. But the slack has been taken up with such major shopping environments as Northcross Mall, Highland Mall, Barton Creek Square, and the Arboretum (Trammell Crow's fabulous new assemblage of high-end shops and restaurants—plus a theater, office complex, and Wyndham Hotel—in Northwest Austin).

If small, intimate shopping centers are more your style, visit 26 Doors at 1206 West



Every Christmas since 1984 downtown Austin has glittered from the Colorado River to the Capitol with eleven blocks lined with trees and close to a hundred thousand tiny white lights. As part of this new Austin tradition, A Capital Christmas, sponsored by Downtown Austin Partners, provides Dillo bus rides and twelve nights of events along the route.

38th. There you'll find an excellent variety of boutiques, specialty shops, and stores. And don't miss Armando's for good Mexican cuisine.

There are, of course, many small shops that thrive in Austin's nooks and crannies. Solamente Mexico at 7739C Northcross is the place to go for fine Mexican handcrafted furnishings, decoratives, and accessories. The Texas Clothier, 3710 Crawford, sells quality men's fashions and has been doing so for ten years. For the finest selection of outdoor equipment, clothing, and footwear it's Whole Earth Provision Company, 2410 San Antonio and 8868 Research.

Shopping in Austin is at its finest during the Christmas season. It's then that you can find so many wonderfully hand-crafted gifts. Two special places to shop during the holidays are the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar at the Austin Opera House, 200 Academy, and the Dickens Festival in the Arts Warehouse at 300 San Antonio. Be sure and take the kids with you; there's lots of yuletide activity at both locations. •

For more information about Austin call or write: Austin Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 1967, Austin, Texas 78767; 901 W. Riverside Drive, (512) 478-0098.



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# AND A PIÑATA IN A PEAR TREE

[ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 164 ] offense. It is strongly recommended that you buy Mexican insurance in Laredo before leaving; at \$4-\$6 a day it's worth it (try Sanborn's, 2212 Santa Ursula, 722-0931). The streets in Nuevo Laredo are narrow and crowded, but you can park in a garage (the one on Victoria, between Matamoros and Juárez, is convenient to most shops and costs 50 cents an hour) or on the street; the men in khaki uniforms waving crazily at you will point you to an available space and sell you coins for the meter—for a tip, of course.

If you walk, leave your car below the Riverdrive Mall and use bridge number one (for convenience, you may wish to stay at either the nearby Hilton or La Posada). You pay 15 cents and are in Mexico in about three minutes. If, on your way back, you are loaded down with bulky packages or are just pooped from such an international day, you can hail a taxi for a ride to your hotel. Mexican cabs are not metered, so make sure the driver quotes a price before you get in; a trip from the downtown shopping area shouldn't cost more than \$10 for two people. (Cabs from Laredo are not allowed to go into Mexico to pick up passengers.)

Upon your return to the U.S., whether you are in a car or on foot, customs agents will ask your citizenship, and you must declare everything that you purchased. You are allowed to bring back \$400 worth of goods duty-free (but only for personal use and only once every thirty days). Liquor can be brought back by visitors over 21 and is still one of the best buys: a 750-milliliter bottle of La Rojena Centenario tequila was only \$4.45, compared with \$12.99 here. U.S. Customs has a list of items you cannot bring back. The obvious ones are fruits and vegetables, guns, and drugs. Something the list will not tell you is that items made from endangered species, such as crocodile or sea turtle, are *not* okay to bring back.

**M**ost of your scouting will take place in an eight-block area along Avenida Guerrero, the main street of Nuevo Laredo, and its fringes. Typical tourist shops, teeming with brass ashtrays, onyx elephants, straw hats, and turquoise bracelets, pop up just as you step off the bridge. Shop owners stand poised in their doorways, inviting shoppers in or questioning what it is, exactly, they are searching for. If indeed what you want lies in this kind of store, browse first, compare prices, and get ready to bargain. Don't hesitate to let the salespeople know that you saw their \$8 copper Christmas-angel candlestick for only \$6.50 two doors down. Some standard stores (all on Guerrero) are better than

others: El Arte Azteca carries mother-of-pearl, copper, and silver bolo ties and resembles a tack shop, with its spurs, boots, bridles, and whips. Tiffany-style lamps and an intense assortment of brass baubles are to be ogled at Galva Gifts. At 208 Guerrero, women's clothes—all-cotton fiesta dresses (\$6.80-\$80)—are better than usual. Ponce's Curios, a store with a catchy sign, "This Is Your Favorite Store," overflows with more-than-affordable items such as piñatas (\$2.50), lime squeezers (\$1.25), tortilla presses (\$3), and all sizes of *molcajetes*, or volcanic-stone mortars (small, \$3.50). For your heavy-duty *turístico* shopping, head to the hub of it all, Nuevo Mercado de la Reforma (on Guerrero at Belden), a three-story, open-air mall rife with shopkeepers eager to score a sale (Robert Schrader at the Hilton even gives guests discount coupons—up to 25 per cent—for many of these places). You can find everything of a particularly undistinguished quality here, from bright bouquets of paper flowers and multicolored huaraches to dental care. Do stop at the dry goods store on the street level. *Vainilla extra* (\$2.25 a liter for Tropical, the best brand) and canned *chiles chipotles adobados* (\$1) are hard to find in the U.S., even in Texas, and make smart presents for the Diana Kennedy aficionado.

What makes shopping in Nuevo Laredo special, however, are several well-established stores that are so selective in their merchandise and sophisticated in their taste that you not only are buoyed just by being away, at last, from the ordinary but are dazzled by the possibilities of immediate purchases. The best reason for taking your car is to make the twenty-minute drive out to Guerrero to Rafael de México (Reforma 3902, 4-2588; Monday through Saturday 9-7, Sunday 9-1), an immense treasure house cluttered with gifts, arts, and antiques ("a little bit from everywhere in Mexico," according to owner Rafael Costilla) that ends with a large furniture-making shop in the back. In business for eighteen years, Costilla designs custom pine pieces, such as a massive and elaborate hand-carved mantel (\$600), a reproduction of a simple monastery bench (\$240), trunks (\$180) and boxes (\$120) stained a translucent white and each "tied" with an elegant, thick wooden rope on top, and an assortment of dining room tables and chairs (\$220-\$1000). Costilla has a feel for the classics and a knack for creating a warm and invigorating environment in which to show them. Hundreds of boxy glass lanterns hang from the twelve-foot ceiling, and perforated tin mirrors from San Miguel (\$295), masks, carved wooden angels (\$65), and oil paintings by Nuevo Laredo artist David Paz adorn the walls. Paz's realistic still lifes, rich in color and gastronomical in theme, are wonderful. One, an assortment of fruits, seems almost Florentine (\$400). A smaller one, of garlic, eggplants, and purple onions, has a

lovely wintry light (\$100). Another artist, Medrano, from Santa Rosa, makes vibrantly colored primitive toy cars and airplanes from clay (\$1.50-\$85). A set of contemporary cobalt-blue stoneware from Toluca (twelve place settings, \$326) is sleek and curvaceous in design and sturdy as all get-out. Great stocking stuffer number one: lion-faced clay flutes from Texoco (\$7.90).

Just opened in February, La Casa de los Cuatro Patios (Guerrero 3047; Monday through Thursday 9:30-6, Friday and Saturday 9:30-8, Sunday 9-3:30) is a mini shopping center not far from Rafael's and next door to the Hospital San José. The brick patios are shared by a bar-nightclub, an indoor-outdoor restaurant called Tom and Jerry's, and a gift shop selling carpets, ladies' dresses, pricey furniture, ceramics, mirrors, and silver picture frames. Upstairs is beauty shop. Don't miss the two murals by David Paz—one is next to the gift shop and the other is near the outdoor bar.

While you're away from downtown, take advantage of some cheaper prices. Your patio or potted plants will benefit from a quick stop at Alfacería Guadalajara (on Guerrero at Chihuahua), which has scads of clay pots in all shapes and sizes. Across the street, the Super Hogar (Guerrero 2009) has heaps of incredibly inexpensive kitchen accoutrements. Speckled blue enamel plates (\$1.63), silverware (three for \$1), and pans (\$4.80) are ideal for camping or picnics. Newlyweds and college students, take notice: heavy-duty brooms are just \$1.

Back in town, head for mighty Martí's (Victoria 2923, 2-3137; Monday through Friday 9-6, Saturday 9-7:30, Sunday 9-3), the Gump's of Nuevo Laredo. Set back from the street bustle and insulated by a small courtyard, Martí's is soothng in its finery. For 32 years, Martí Franco's rare taste and spirit have pervaded her huge three-level furniture-clothing-gift store. It's no bargain basement; even the more-reasonably priced items at the higher end of the scale are serious: a brown-and-white onyx backgammon table (\$785), a carved wooden folding screen (\$2950), a pair of two-tiered bronze candelabras (\$1500), and an antique carousel horse (\$1200). Martí specializes in contemporary designers from all over Mexico, and a brief tour of her collection reveals a small crystal paperweight globe (\$98) by Pedro Ramírez Vázquez, the architect for Mexico City's National Museum of Anthropology; silver from Taxco featuring designs by the late jeweler William Spratling (\$3.95-\$89); eccentric furniture, such as a Pedro Friedeberg chair that looks like a giant cupped hand (\$1200); Jorge Bautista's rubbed brass boxes decorated with whimsical heart-shaped figures (\$98); and colorful yet tailored women's clothing by Girasol. Ceramic Day of the Dead masks, glazed in electric blue, green, and red, were a deal at \$32.50, as were the 100 per cent

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wool shawls for \$6. Marti's is also the place to buy basic bric-a-brac, like strands of ceramic garlic, red chiles, or onions. Great stocking stuffer number two: glossy papier-mâché radishes, eggplants, or tomatoes (\$2-\$3.75).

Just half a block up Guerrero from Marti's is another shopping tradition, Deutsch (Guerrero 320, 2-2066; Tuesday through Friday 10-5), where what you see isn't all you get. Yes, you can select from lovely handcrafted ceramic dinnerware with a yellow bird painted in the center and a forest-green border (plate, \$15; cup and saucer, \$15; coffeepot, \$38; casserole, \$38) or some nineteen-inch brass candlesticks (\$32 each) or sterling silver belt buckles (\$150). But Russell Deutsch is

best known for his custom-made gold and silver jewelry, which he brings out only on special request. As you can tell by his not-so-convenient hours, Deutsch doesn't cater to the average tourist.

Newer to the retail scene is Casablanca Gifts (on Guerrero at Pino Suárez, 2-0656; Monday through Saturday 9-8, Sunday 9-4), where Montana brand boots from León are the centerpiece. Try on some of red boa (\$225), ostrich (\$200), or plain reverse bull hide (\$70). Casablanca also carries Monterrey crystal (a decanter costs \$21.88), men's python wallets (\$20), and good buys on jewelry. Great stocking stuffer number three: a sweet 23-inch necklace of linked hearts in sterling silver (\$64). Open for only four

months, Casablanca keeps adding items to its stock. Ask Don Pedro, the manager, to show you the newest finds.

Farther up Guerrero is a spot where you may feel at home, Nuevo Laredo's Ralph Lauren Polo Shop (Guerrero 934, 2-5340; Monday through Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-7, Sunday 10-1). Astounding steals can be made on off-season clothes, such as swimming trunks (\$13.50) and short-sleeved men's cotton shirts (\$21). But even current styles are 20 to 30 per cent less than what you expect to pay in the U.S.

To the east of Guerrero lies another wonderland of handmade home furnishings, Bill Luft's La Casona (Ocampo and Belden, 2-9340; Sunday through Saturday 9-6). Luft, a designer who lives in Laredo, has spent twenty years traveling in Mexico. Working with architects and landscape designers, Luft custom-builds furniture and provides antique doors, colonial cupboards, spotted cowhide chairs, wrought-iron patio tables, giant clay containers, handwoven fabrics, carved stone, and blown glassware to his clients, who are mostly South Texas ranchers. Recently, La Casona was temporarily closed by the striking Mexican Retail Clerks Union. But as of late October, with the "heavy negotiations" behind him, Luft had reopened. "I have a warehouse bulging with new things," he reported.

Across Ocampo from La Casona is a quiet little artisans' mall called Los Arcos, where nicer wool blankets and blue glass plates and pitchers can be snatched up for a fair price. Inspect the mysterious clay figures—such as the goddess of life and death, a half-woman-half-skeleton wrapped in a striking snake (\$120)—at Ceni-Pochetecal, the first shop on the left and the best.

For the home designer or do-it-yourself remodeler, wholesale prices on both terracotta Saltillo tiles and hand-painted ceramic ones can't be beat. There are many tile distributors in Nuevo Laredo to choose from, but one of the most convenient outlets is Fama de Nuevo Laredo (corner of Jesús Carranza and Dr. Mier, 2-1606; Sunday through Saturday 9-7), about five blocks south of the new bridge on the right-hand side. You will see more types of tile than you ever imagined (\$7-\$11 for enough interior tiles to cover eleven square feet).

If at this point your wallet is a little flimsy and you feel a little weak from so much fiscal activity, what do you do? Head to the local faith healer's store, of course. At the dark and musty Herbario Laredo (on Pino Suárez, west of Guerrero), clumps of dry herbs, roots, and aloe vera are shelved next to fertility candles, plaster of paris saints, and teas for knowledge, blood, or nerves. Look for the rare rock talismans that bring you money. You may even find the long-lost incense that makes you a smart shopper. ♦

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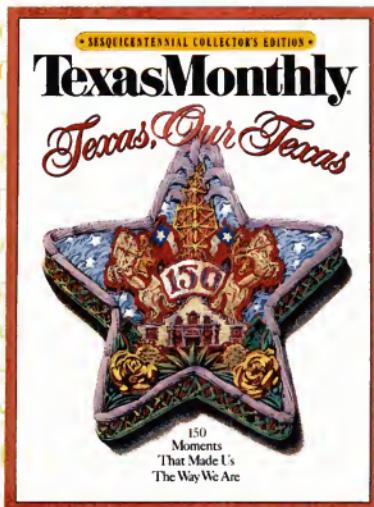
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## TOUCH ME, FEEL ME, HEAL ME!

[ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 167 ] of holistic therapy have taken up the trade in the last few years. Austin, I learned, is a mecca of psychic activity—an "energy vortex" where healers, psychics, and other denizens of the Twilight Zone come to recharge their metaphysical batteries.

Thousands and maybe tens of thousands of Texans regularly pay for a variety of psychic therapies, the most exotic of which is psychic surgery, or "bloody operations," as they are called. The operating room is usually in some off-the-beaten-path motel or private residence. The times and places are not advertised—advertising would be an open invitation to legal action—but word is passed along by an informal network of believers.

It didn't take me long to tap into this network. Seek ye shall find is one of the tenets of the psychic world. What surprised me was that the network included three of my oldest and closest friends—entrepreneur Segal Fry, Jerry Jeff Walker's wife, Susan, and writer Bud Shrake. I learned that they all had been treated by Angel Domingo last February when the healer did a one-day stint at WillieWorld, as they call Willie Nelson's Pedernales Country Club retreat west of Austin.

Of the three, Shrake was the only skeptic. He had asked Angel to treat a blocked colon and had seen a pool of coffee-colored liquid well up between the healer's fingers as Angel removed what appeared to be a piece of hog tripe from Shrake's abdomen. When Shrake returned an hour later for a second treatment, he asked Angel to work on his foot, which had been broken years ago but had never healed properly. "He pulled what looked like a chicken bone out of my left foot," Shrake said. He experienced no pain, he told me—other than the pain of a foot that had been constantly sore for years—not did he notice any relief. Shrake acknowledged that this was possibly attributable to his lack of faith.

Susan Walker had four sessions with Angel and said that the leg cramps and pain that had been bothering her for eight years became much less intense. Susan had watched while the Filipino worked on a friend's liver. "I saw his hands go to her liver, saw this pulsing organ going around his fingers," she said. Though her husband had gone to another psychic surgeon and had not been helped, Susan was convinced that the concept was valid. "I saw him take that bone out of Shrake's foot, I frigging saw it," she insisted.

Segal Fry was no less convinced. He also suffered from a colon blockage; there was a knot in his lower abdomen that

caused constant pain. He had been to a couple of doctors and found no relief, and he had tried alternative forms of treatment, among them a fast of lemon juice, maple syrup, and cayenne pepper. Angel removed something "gristly, nasty, and about the size of a thumb" from Fry's abdomen. "I still have colon problems," Fry told me. "He didn't cure that. But the knot is gone, and the pain hasn't recurred."

Fry had been treated by Angel previously at an apartment in the West Montrose section of Houston. It was Fry who invited Angel to bring his show to WillieWorld, at the request of Willie's daughter Lana and other members of Willie's entourage. Angel accepted, apparently because one of his Texas contacts assured him that Willie Nelson was a famous entertainer who would probably want to take part in the healer's miraculous work.

Three months later Angel had again set up headquarters in a rented condominium at WillieWorld. He worked only two days, but at each session he treated between 150 and 200 patients, most of whom journeyed from Austin for the day. An operation took from three to four minutes, and Angel treated two patients at a time. There was no set fee for the healer's services—as in the case of advertising, the collecting of fees could invite unpleasant encounters with the law—but patients were encouraged to deposit "love offerings" in a collection box just inside the door of the treatment room. The suggested offering was \$30, and it was collected on each visit. Most of the patients made at least two visits to the treatment room, and some made four or five. One member of Willie's staff estimated that the daily take exceeded \$5000.

Angel's presence at WillieWorld sparked some serious debate among the musicians, promoters, and show-biz-fringe players who congregated there. One musician observed that inserting a hand through a stomach wall seemed contrary to the laws of physics. "What the hell do you know about physics?" someone asked, and the musician said, "I'm not saying you can't run your hand through someone's stomach, just that it takes a lot more velocity." Tom Gresham, a concert promoter from Austin, wasn't impressed. "This is piddling stuff," he said. "There are these two guys in Vegas that make an elephant disappear, and they do it every night." The group members asked each other: "What do you think this psychic healing stuff is all about?" About \$30 a minute, they decided.

Even Lana Nelson and the country club staff members sympathetic to the healer were not altogether sure that the bloody operations were real. Angel had removed a two-inch piece of gristly tissue from Lana's stomach, and there had been a good deal of blood, some of which stained her panties. She had thought about having

the stains analyzed. Some of the staffers were beginning to resent the healer and his assistants. The golf pro complained that the Twilight Zoners who came to see Angel felt no constraint about wandering aimlessly around the golf course; he kept chasing middle-aged housewives out of the club's sand traps. One of Angel's Austin contacts, a doctor of nutritional science named James Marlin Ebert, failed to endear himself to WillieWorld regulars, who thought he was pompous and overbearing. The staffers suspected that Ebert had convinced Angel that his main purpose in coming to WillieWorld was to cure Julio Iglesias' good friend. Unfortunately, Willie was seldom around, so Angel never got to treat the celebrity.

It became clear that the presence of the strange Filipino was dividing Willie's camp. Those who had faith stopped talking to those who did not. The believers thought that the nonbelievers were infidels, and the nonbelievers looked on the believers as kooks. After a while no one dared mention the subject of psychic surgery.

### NO MORE BAD BLOOD

**O**n a Sunday morning in late April, the last day that Angel was at WillieWorld, I joined the horde of true believers in condo number 10. We sat around in our robes, waiting to be called to the treatment room upstairs. We could clearly hear Angel's voice, praying or communicating with his patients. "Does it hurt?" he asked. "Can you stand the pain?" A girl squealed, or maybe it was a high giggle. Angel started to sing "How Great Thou Art."

I was with another friend, Tom Athey, who had become intrigued with psychic surgery ten years ago, when a healer helped a friend who had been seriously injured in a parachute jump. Tom had read numerous books on metaphysics and was comfortable with the jargon of the Twilight Zoners—terms like "chakra" and "karma" dropped smoothly from his lips. We had made appointments for two separate morning sessions, two hours apart. A woman from a group called the Planetary Light Association, which acted as a booking agent for the healer, advised us that we would need a minimum of two sessions and that recovery time of at least an hour between treatments was essential. "You'll be receiving so much energy your body can't take it all at once," she said. She also warned that Angel didn't do cosmetic work. We assured her our complaints were not cosmetic.

There were about twenty people waiting when we arrived, and more continued to filter in and out all morning. At least half were older women who looked as though they had read a lot of books by Edgar Cayce, but some were young, holistic,

# XERYUS FOR MEN



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New Age women with wholesome faces and startled eyes. I'd seen one of them recently at Austin's Whole Foods Market. There was a handful of men too, including a bearded, bald-headed young man in a Japanese bathrobe who was so weak that two women had to assist him to the sofa. Judging from the red blotches on his thighs, I assumed that he had undergone chemotherapy. As the patients arrived, they were directed to undress in the laundry room. One young woman who had forgotten to bring a robe was given a blanket.

A pretty, overweight woman named Jann Weiss Peterson checked our names with her master list and had us read and sign a disclaimer saying that the treatment we were to receive was religious rather than medical and that the healer—the "minister"—made no promises. Jann is the founder and spiritual commander of the Planetary Light Association. She asked us to form a circle and hold hands while she said a nondenominational prayer emphasizing peace, love, and faith.

While Jann prayed, I studied the copies of ordination documents that were tacked to the wall behind the reception table. They were from the Lumerian Light Center and Our Church of the Garden and were made out in the names of Angel Estaco Domingo and Dr. Star Johnson. Star Johnson, I learned, lived in San Antonio and acted as Angel's surgical assistant. Upstairs, Angel was singing "Spanish Eyes."

I don't mind admitting that the waiting made me uneasy. It was hard to explain, but I felt like a trespasser. I had vowed to approach this experience with an open mind, but everything I saw and heard was eroding that vow. Clients in the waiting room avoided eye contact or, worse, gave such all-knowing stares that I wondered if I had remembered to put on clean underwear. They spoke in whispers, those who spoke at all, and many appeared to be meditating or praying or both. A tall silver-haired Hispanic wearing a VA hospital robe had cancer and had been to Angel a dozen times. He sat rigidly in a folding chair, his vacant eyes fixed on the fireplace as his wife and teenage daughter comforted him.

Faith wasn't my problem—I'm a Christian, and I pray daily for miracles, some of which come about. I profess little understanding of cosmic forces, and my life is riddled with questions for which I assume there are no answers. I fully believe that faith can heal or, for that matter, move mountains. So can laughter. Former *Saturday Review* editor Norman Cousins made a convincing case that he cured his own crippling ailment by watching Marx Brothers movies. But sitting there looking at the dreamy, innocent countenances around me, knowing that most of their wisdom came from reading tarot cards and casting the I Ching, I knew

there was a faith I would never possess. God can do what He pleases, but I was already having serious doubts that the psalm-singing Filipino hillbilly upstairs could cure hiccups. As Angel burst into a rousing chorus of "Beer Barrel Polka," even the hardest of the believers and the wackiest of the zones were compelled to smile.

Angel turned out to be a stocky little man with greasy black hair and a baggy, weathered face. He wore a flowery short-sleeved shirt with the tail out, like a Tijuana cab driver. A tall woman with brown hair (who I later learned was Star Johnson) watched closely as I deposited a ten and a twenty in the love offering box, then told me to strip to my shorts and lie down on the table. I caught a glimpse of the VA hospital robe folded away in the corner and realized that the naked body on the other table was the Hispanic veteran I had seen downstairs.

Another assistant, an elderly woman with a kindly smile, read a card I had filled out earlier and told Angel, "This brother has some kidney damage as a result of high blood pressure. Do you want me to do a scan?" Angel said yes, and she passed a small towel over my body. Then Angel held the towel to the light as though reading an x-ray and said, "Blockage."

As his assistants rubbed my chest and stomach with an aromatic balm, Angel directed me to face the window—the light—while he prayed for my recovery. I then watched closely as he plucked a moist piece of cotton onto my belly and began to apply pressure with the fingers of his left hand. The fingers of his right hand fidgeted and probed, until one finger seemed to stab into my flesh and vanish for maybe two seconds. I didn't see any blood—he blocked my view with the stationary hand—but the next thing I saw was a small, stringy piece of gristle which exhibited for my brief inspection and tossed into the trash can behind the table. "See?" he said. "Blockage. No more bad blood."

Tom Athey and I sat on a rock wall outside the condominiums after our sessions, discussing whether to blow another \$30 on a second round. Tom's experience had been more disheartening than mine, because he had expected so much. Nevertheless, we went back for a second treatment. It was more of the same. Angel said more prayers, sang more songs, and extracted more gray meat from our bodies. Neither of us saw any blood. It wasn't even good sleight of hand. I didn't feel energized—I felt depressed and a little stupid.

When I called Tom five days later, he told me his throat had been sore all week. "I blame it on Angel," he said. "What a charlatan!"

"Have you changed your mind about psychic surgery?"

"No, I haven't," Tom said. "I still believe there are authentic psychic surgeons around."

## MYSTIC MASSEURS

Arenia dela Cruz, daughter of the legendary Filipino healer Eleuterio Terte, said in an interview a few years ago that 90 per cent of all psychic surgery is fake. Her father's bloody operations were the real article, she swore—as are her own—but most healers are mere sleight-of-hand artists with nylon blood bags hidden between the palm and the thumb. Genuine psychic operations, she said, require tremendous amounts of magnetic power. Any healer who pretends to perform large numbers of operations in quick succession is therefore a proven fraud; so says the daughter of Terte, the man who in 1925 came down from the holy mountains and twenty years later, perform the civilized world's first bloody operation.

Nearly every psychic surgeon in the Philippines claims to be related, directly or indirectly, to Terte and hence to each other. Their methods and beliefs are usually self-taught, and their jealousy and self-righteousness infamous. Though they all started life as Roman Catholics, their theologies have evolved into imprecise mixtures of Hinduism, Buddhism, voodooism, and maybe some other isms yet to be identified. Those who have visited Texas have definitely been exposed to zionism, for example.

Some healers live aesthetic, saintly lives, but many raise hell at every opportunity. They get hangovers like everyone else. Their techniques are as varied as their personalities—some administer psychic injections from invisible syringes, some use spiritual x-rays, some even heal by long distance. A few limit their treatment to spiritual or magnetic massages—laying on of hands—but most accede to the wishes of the public and perform bloody operations. "Angel gives people what they want, the same as Willie," said James Ebert, the Austin therapist who had accompanied Angel to WillieWorld. "He performs a service, like any other businessman. I doubt Angel could even tell you how he does what he does. He doesn't have the time or the intellectual inclination to analyze it."

Education and training inhibit faith healers. None of them have studied anatomy, nor do they have any interest in modern techniques of sterilization or anesthesiology. The material that they appear to remove from their patients' bodies is merely the manifestation of an illness. The gunk that was removed in the operations that I saw looked like human or animal tissue, but in rural areas of the Philippines it is common for psychic surgeons to remove rusty nails, pieces of wire, or bloody palm leaves. The healers

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claim to be instruments of God; it is the Holy Spirit that diagnoses and cures. Almost all of them agree that the purpose of bloody operations is to help the patient have faith. "If you can heal a patient with a trick," says Dela Cruz, "the trick becomes legitimate."

There are about fifty practicing healers in the Philippines, and less than a dozen travel outside their country—usually under the sponsorship of groups like the Planetary Light Association or individuals like James Ebert. "People are literally throwing money at the healers," says Ebert, who practices what he describes as holistic rejuvenation. When I visited him a few days after my experience with Angel, Ebert was making plans for Angel's return to Austin in early June. He also has booked guided tours to the Philippines. His main business, Ebert made clear, is healing. "I do things for people, as opposed to *to* people, as is done by the medical establishment," he said, an enigmatic smile creeping across his pale, slender face. The services listed in his brochure include "bodywork," health and nutritional counseling, therapeutic massage, and spiritual healing. Ebert's doctorate comes from the Life College of Science, a correspondence school that operates out of a warehouse in South Austin.

Ebert has yet to perform an unassisted bloody operation, but it is only a matter of time. He confided that he has been personally tapped for ordination by one of the best-known healers in the Philippines, the man reputed to have been Ferdinand Marcos' private psychic surgeon before the rebellion. This illustrious psychic healer, whom I will call R., used to work out of Dallas until a couple of years ago, when (as R. later told a close associate) the cops raided a house and took R. away in handcuffs. He was never formally charged, but the experience was so unnerving that he hasn't been back to this state since. R. continues to treat Texans, but only at various resort spas in Mexico.

Ebert told me of how he awoke one morning in September 1984 to an inner voice that said, "See a psychic surgeon." In a matter of days, providence led him to Angel Domingo. In the months that followed, Ebert traveled to the holy mountains of the Philippines, where he also met R. A short time later, as Ebert was assisting R. in an operation, the healer went into a trance—"He went to the other side to consult his spirit guide, is how he explained it"—and when he returned, R. told Ebert the good news. "He invited me to return to the Philippines, to work with him, to go with him to the holy mountains, to learn how to do surgery," Ebert said. "Unfortunately, the political climate hasn't yet permitted me to go back."

Though Twilight Zoners understand the marketing potential of bloody operations, many find it difficult to deal honestly with

its gory particulars. They prefer to call the gunk that the healers appear to extract from their clients' bodies as "congealed energy" (zonies are big on words like "energy" and "vibrations"). Scientific tests of congealed energy are futile, they maintain, because the stuff will only dematerialize. Zonies love to bash the American Medical Association and indict Western culture for being too literal-minded, yet their driving passion is an attempt to explain the unexplainable—to reduce metaphysics, you might say, to a science. Jann Peterson's husband, Art, an Austin chiropractor, told me that a healer's ability to penetrate a patient's skin without leaving a mark depends on the speed of the vibration of the electrons. "If you speed up the vibrations of the electrons in this table top," he said, rapping his knuckles on the surface, "you could stick your hand through it."

Zonies can explain away every doubt. The reason their number is growing exponentially, something they take as a given, is explained by the One Hundredth Monkey Theory—a monkey discovers that yams taste better washed, and by the time this piece of information has been discovered by one hundred monkeys everyone is in on it. The White Crow Theory is the zonies' handy way of shifting the burden of proof to the nonbeliever—if you've never seen a white crow, how can you be sure one doesn't exist? One of the missions of the Planetary Light Association is to raise the vibrations of the Earth in preparation for its arrival into the Age of Aquarius, which, contrary to popular opinion, is scheduled to start any day now.

Another of the association's missions is to sell T-shirts, bumper stickers, "Be Your Light" buttons, mugs, and tapes in which a spirit named Anoah, borrowing the voice of Jann Weiss Peterson, advises the heartsick and weary. Jann, a professional medium or channel, is the only one who is in contact with Anoah. He is an old man with white hair and white robe who floats along, carrying a book titled *Wisdom*. Elaina, a sort of spiritual Joan Rivers who also uses Jann's body, refers to Anoah as the Big Cheese. Elaina is always trying to get an archangel named Jeremiah to loosen up and tell a few jokes, but being unfamiliar with the ways of mortals, he finds that difficult. Jann's more recent visitors are a group of ETs from the Octurian Federation. As Elaina explains it, the Octurian Federation can be reached by traveling to the belt of Orion, backing up a little, then hanging a left. The aliens are led by a little man with large eyes. At first, Elaina called him Whatusface, but Anoah rebuked her for such irreverence, and now everyone calls him Joe. "He is always reminding people on earth to dig in and do it right," Jann told me. Elaina, Joe, and the rest of the gang also appear on the Anoah tapes (for \$4 each, or they can be heard live, so to

speak, during a half-hour personal counseling session with Jann that costs \$40).

### CONGEALED ENERGY

I do not advertise it, but I too have psychic powers. I discovered this year ago in a tough beer joint on Fort Worth's North Side, where to my astonishment I convinced four housewives who had stopped off for an afternoon cocktail that I could read nipples. "That's right," I said, "nipples. Laugh if you will, but it's a God-given gift, and I'd sooner burn in hell than abuse it." Before long, one of the housewives had produced a bare breast for my inspection. I had drunk just enough to really believe I could do it, and as I studied the ripples and ridges of the pink nipple, a voice I hardly recognized said, "You are an extremely intelligent and sensitive woman, but your husband doesn't realize it. You alone see that by following your instincts you are discovering the true you." I could tell from her reaction—from all their reactions—that I was on the right track. Two of the others were already unbuttoning their blouses.

I was thinking of the nipple-reading episode as I flew to Mazatlán, Mexico, to see R. Those housewives had trusted me because we were in a barroom rather than a carnival tent and because I seemingly had nothing to gain by deception. The rest was easy. People expect to see tricks at magic shows—trying to spot the deception is half the fun—but most of those who visit healers come with some sort of belief or at least hope. In a nation where as many believe in lucky numbers as believe in the theory of evolution, that shouldn't be surprising. There were a lot of questions I wanted to ask R., but again I had vowed to keep an open mind.

For the first two and a half days I was in Mazatlán, R. managed to avoid me. Twice he agreed to interviews, and twice he failed to show up. "He's very paranoid," said Jann Peterson, who had been working with him there regularly for two years. "Just detecting a strange energy in a room causes him to freak out." R. had not forgotten what had happened in Dallas. A similar raid in Puerto Vallarta had disrupted the powers of another healer. Being led off in handcuffs must play hell with concentration. I told Jann that my purpose was to write about R., not arrest him. As far as I could tell, no laws were being broken anyway. Let the buyer beware. Jann's own psychic vibrations told her that I was okay. "If he agrees to give you an interview, will you agree not to use his name?" she asked. I agreed.

Jann was one of three psychics on R.'s staff in Mazatlán. The others were an astrologer from Connecticut named Lynn Files and Belle Shiplett, the elderly woman with the kindly smile whom I had seen assisting Angel at WillieWorld. Late one afternoon when R. had again failed to keep an appointment, I got the three wom-

en of his staff into a discussion of reincarnation. All zones have experiences with reincarnation, or past-life regression, as some call it. Jann told us of her life as a Mayan priest in the seaside city of Tulum. Belle had been the son of an Indian chief in Texas and had witnessed her own funeral near Fredericksburg. Though it was a warm tropical night in Mazatlán, I could see goose bumps rippling up her arms as Belle told the story. Lynn was reproachful. She said that Jann took herself too seriously, then told both of them, "Let's face it. A lot of people remember being Indian princesses, but there's only so many Indian princesses to go around." Nevertheless, I coaxed Lynn into admitting her belief that she had been a young German soldier killed in the early days of World War II. She told us that one night, after numerous drinks, she stood up and sang an old marching song in perfect German—a language she didn't speak. Despite Lynn's reproach, Jann took another turn. Speaking in an extremely animated, almost agitated voice (the voice of Elaina, I imagine), she told of her experiences hiding Baby Jesus from authorities in Cairo. "I seem to remember changing his diapers," she said serenely.

It was a Sunday, my last full day in Mazatlán, when I finally got to meet R. He was younger than Angel (who is a relative by marriage) and smaller—he looked like a jockey. His assistant healer, Dodo, looked like a Filipino bantamweight, bandy-legged and puffy-eyed. Dodo was much more relaxed and cheerful than R., and he offered all of us, including a woman dying of cancer, a Filipino cigarette. The brand name was Hope.

A large room with a balcony overlooking the ocean had been chosen as the treatment place. Sheets of clear plastic were spread over two beds—like Angel, R. treated two patients at a time. Unlike Angel, love offerings weren't good enough. It was a straight cash deal, \$80 U.S. for two sessions—no pesos, please. Ten patients were waiting this particular morning, including Belle, who would also be assisting. Except for me and a young couple from Houston, all the patients were New Yorkers. Grace, a woman with frightened eyes, was dying of cancer. Nick, her son, a pious young man who walked with his hands clasped and talked almost exclusively of faith, remained constantly at her side.

During orientation, Nick asked Dodo if walking on fire will increase faith. Dodo looked as though someone had dropped a cobra in his lap. "Walk on fire?" he said incredulously. "Me?" Lynn tried to clarify the question. "He means his own faith," she told Dodo, pointing out that fire walking had become popular among the zones of the East Coast. "I happen to believe there is no limit to faith," Nick added. "No, no," Dodo said, waving his hands furiously. "No walk on fire. Burn feet."

R.'s hands were much quicker than An-

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gel's had been; during my operation, he put on a good show. I had asked him to remove a small knot just above my wrist—my doctor in Austin had called it a ganglion and told me that the folk remedy was to hit it with the family Bible, which if done with enough enthusiasm, would cause the knot to vanish. Compared with curing cancer and blocked colons, removing a ganglion seemed the simplest task in the Christian world. R. rubbed oil on the knot, then shook his head—he didn't want any part of an affliction that would still be there when he was finished. Instead, he fluttered his hands in the area above my kidneys and produced a piece of gray meat; it was the second time in less than a month that my high blood pressure had been cured.

Although Jann and Lynn tried to hustle me out of the room as soon as my treatment was completed, I resisted. Finally, R. nodded that it was okay for me to watch as he worked on Belle. I knew by now that I wouldn't get an interview, but this was even better. In the dim light, I watched R.'s hands. His left pressed into the white flesh of Belle's abdomen, creating a small pocket, and his right flitted about, distracting attention. Suddenly, the pocket in Belle's abdomen filled with dark fluid, and just as suddenly R. produced several slivers of gristle. "You see?" he said, dangling the meat just out of my reach. The operation had taken about five seconds. Dodo was already cleaning away the mess. There was no trace of an entry wound on Belle's stomach. "Amazing," I said dryly. The truth was, if R. had tried to pass off this act on a carnival midway in, say, Wichita Falls, he'd be leaving town on a rail.

Flying home to Austin, I experienced again the uneasy guilt of a trespasser. As fraudulent as I knew the bloody operations to be, the healing was another matter. Maybe it took displays of blood to trigger faith in certain people. On the other hand, I had sensed that beneath the conditioned reflex of faith, there was a deeper despair, a mute surrender to the inevitable. If the believers had indeed succeeded in damming up their fears and anxieties, it wouldn't take much to break the dam. I just hated to be the one to do it. Nevertheless, I knew there was one more thing I had to do: I had to get a piece of that congealed energy and have it analyzed.

I stopped off at the laboratory of the Austin Pathology Associates, where a doctor friend gave me a bottle of formaldehyde in which to preserve the tissue. Then I telephoned James Ebert and made an appointment to see Angel, who was working that week out of a home in South Austin. I wasn't sure how the zonies would react when I made my play for the meat, but just in case, I took along two big friends, Bud Shrake and Fletcher Boone, owner of an Austin restaurant called the Raw Deal.

Star Johnson was the first to realize

what was happening. I was stretched out on the table, nearly naked, and Angel was humming and producing small pieces of gunk from the area of my kidneys, depositing them on my stomach. When I grabbed the gun, Star Johnson grabbed my fist, and we wrestled for control. Angel began to scream, "You'll destroy my power. All the thousands of people I have healed. . . Give it back . . . I'll pray for you . . . I'll heal you." All the color had drained from Ebert's face. "You're playing with fire," he warned me. "This is like giving a loaded forty-five-caliber pistol to a four-year-old girl."

All hell had broken loose in the waiting room too. Shrake and Boone told me that the woman at the reception desk covered her head with her arms and cried out, "Cover yourself with the white light . . . surround yourself with light before it's too late."

Ebert was waiting for me by the front door, but I knew he wasn't going to make any move to stop me. Instead, he said, "You'll regret what you did the rest of your life. It will follow you to your grave. It will haunt your karma. Something will happen."

"I'd say in about three days' time," a voice behind me warned.

As I hurried out the door, I could hear Angel's voice at the back of the house. He kept shouting, "Bullshit! This is bullshit."

My fist had been clenched so tightly I wasn't even sure that I had gotten away with the evidence. But I had—a piece about the size of a pencil eraser. On the way to the laboratory, Shrake and Boone told me that as soon as I was out the door, Angel complained of a sudden headache, grabbed the cash box, and split. "But he did give me my money back," said Boone with a smile. I heard later on that Angel left town the same day.

The piece of meat didn't dematerialize, as had been predicted, but it might as well have. The lab report was inconclusive. The meat was a piece of connective tissue, but nobody could say if it was of human origin.

I had about given up hope when Bud Shrake called a week later. While playing golf at WillieWorld, he had come into possession of new and dramatic evidence—the panties that Lana Nelson had worn the day that Angel opened up her lower abdomen. She had been saving them for four months, meaning to have the stains analyzed. "Lana has graciously donated her panties to your investigation," Shrake told me. I sent the panties by messenger to the Bexar County Regional Crime Lab in San Antonio. The stain did turn out to be blood—bovine blood apparently diluted with water. Not that it will make any difference to the believers, but I had cow ranked third, behind chicken and goat. Cat was moving up fast.

When I called Shrake, he said, "I guess you knew all along it would turn out this way, eh, inspector?"

I didn't deny it. ♦

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# THE WRIGHT HOUSE

[ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 160 ] afternoon in 1945 when a phone call summoned him to the White House for the news of Franklin Roosevelt's death. Rayburn's protégé, a young congressman named Lyndon Johnson, learned the inner workings of the House in this sanctuary. So, years later, did young Jim Wright.

The Board of Education did not survive Sam Rayburn, nor did the kind of politics it represented. Rayburn's House operated according to his celebrated maxim, "In order to get along, you have to go along." In his day the phrase had the status of revealed truth; today it has fallen into disrepute. It is synonymous with the excesses of good ol' boy politics: logrolling and pork barrels and passive politicians who see, hear, and speak no evil while they await their turn. As Rayburn's philosophy has fallen into decline, so has the office he once held. O'Neill had the image of a back-room politico who was out of touch with the country. He lost effective control of the House in the early years of the Reagan presidency; when he regained it in 1983, he did little with it.

Now it is Jim Wright's turn. His ascension is an enormously significant event for Texas. "Ever since I've been in Washington," says Congressman Charles Wilson of Lufkin, who arrived in 1972, "it's been

open season on Texas. Now hunting season is closed." For the country, the Wright House will be a far different place than the O'Neill House. Because the Democrats have retaken control of the Senate, Wright does not bear O'Neill's burden of being the party's front line of defense against Ronald Reagan. He is free to set his own course. What will that course be? How did he come to be elected Speaker of the House? What sort of politician is Jim Wright? These are crucial questions for the House, the Democratic party, and the nation. Their answers lie behind the locked door to Room H-128, and Wright's success as Speaker will ultimately depend upon whether he can restore a measure of respect to the kind of politics that used to be practiced there.

## MR. INSIDE

In describing Jim Wright, everybody starts with the eyebrows. They are a cartoonist's dream, a personal characteristic as distinct as Nixon's nose or Carter's grin. Thick and bushy, they sprout out from his forehead like mutant moustaches.

The eyebrows, though, are false advertisements. They are obvious; everything else about Wright is hidden. After 32 years in the House Wright is still unknown to most of political Washington. He is even less well known back in Texas. This past summer there was a party at the

River Oaks Country Club in Houston to introduce to the Houston establishment the man who had been majority leader of the House for ten years.

Wright is the essence of a House insider. His closest friends are staffers and former staffers. His wife is a former staffer. He is a student of the other 434 House members. He knows how they campaigned and why they won, what they want and how he can help them get it. If they are Democrats, he has probably contributed money to them (he has a personal political action committee that doled out more than \$300,000 to House candidates this year) and campaigned for them in their districts. He used to keep a map on his wall with pins representing every congressional district he had campaigned in; now he says he has lost track, but it's well over half.

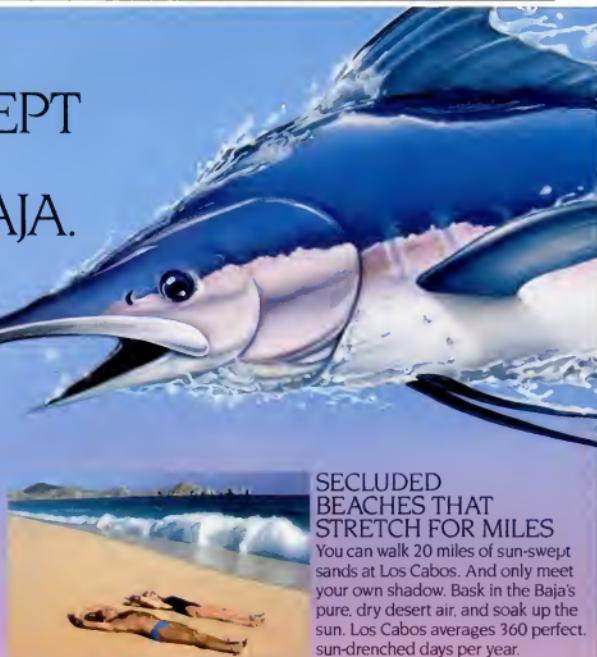
His thoroughness was evident in 1976, when he was running for majority leader. All first-time Democratic congressional candidates were invited to Washington for a campaign seminar. Wright's chief rival, Phillip Burton of California, held a cocktail party for the aspiring freshmen. Wright met with them in his office, one

There is a reason why Jim Wright is such a consummate insider: he doesn't really fit into the political world outside the House. Wright will be the last Speaker who came of age during the Great Depression. In all likelihood, he will be the last

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one who did not graduate from college (he was at the University of Texas when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor; when the war ended, he returned to his hometown of Weatherford and began running for the Legislature). He is out of phase with modern politics. Ideological labels like liberal and conservative offend him. "Adjectives don't just define," he complains. "They confine." He resents the importance of TV, and he is frustrated by its superficiality. "Substance is my thing, not image," Wright says, but TV projects image, not substance. He has never mastered the art of dealing with the Washington press corps and gloats that not one Washington-based reporter predicted that he would win the majority leader's race.

He still prefers to do things for himself that other Washington politicians turned over to experts and image-makers years ago. When he had to cancel a meeting with a South American leader, Wright shunned the standard practice of asking the State Department to draft a letter of regret in Spanish and wrote one himself—in Spanish, which he learned in the sixties by attending night school at the Foreign Service Institute. He has been known to drive campaign consultants batty by trying to write his own material. Wright still hands out copies of the newspaper ad he composed 32 years ago, which helped him win his first congressional race. It was a 27-paragraph open letter to Fort Worth's political kingmaker, Amon Carter, whose

newspaper had shut Wright out of its news columns and endorsed his opponent. A *Star-Telegram* editorial had charged that Wright had kept his positions on issues well concealed. "Let's tell the truth, Mr. Carter," Wright wrote. "YOU and your personal newspaper have kept them well concealed."

Wright is acknowledged to be the finest debater and orator in the House. But even this talent is vestigial, serving to underscore his estrangement from the media age. Wright's style of oratory is better suited to the stump than the studio. It is full of images and metaphors and literary allusions. In the televised sessions from the House floor, younger, made-for-TV politicians deliver their vapid speeches straight into the camera. Their gazes never waver. When Wright speaks, he constantly looks left and right, his hands gesturing, his face intense. The words are elegant, but on TV the elegance is lost. He looks like a country preacher chastising sinners.

Jim Wright's politics are out of style, too. He's drawn to the center in an age of extremes, given to bridge-building in an age of partisanship. He spent most of his career in the House on the Public Works Committee, and he has an instinctive faith in the kind of big government projects that are regarded as boondoggles today. Along with the GI bill, the civil rights acts, and Medicare, the interstate highway system is high on Wright's list of the few achieve-

ments of Congress since World War II that have really improved the quality of life in America. He's right, of course, but not many politicians would have thought to include it.

In 1981, when Ronald Reagan set out to cut the federal budget, Jim Wright drew his own line in the dirt not at rescuing social welfare programs but at saving the synthetic fuels corporation. The program was an expensive subsidy that enabled big energy companies to make synfuels at a price competitive with oil, and it was notorious for waste and mismanagement. Wright found practically no support for synfuels, from liberals or conservatives, Republicans or Democrats, and the program was dismantled. Today, with oil at \$15 a barrel, almost every profile of Wright by a Washington reporter second-guesses his support for synfuels. Wright still believes that in the long run the synthetic fuels program was as essential to the national security as the Star Wars project. But in the eighties, the long run, like Wright himself, is out of fashion.

In a way, he always has been. He was a liberal in the conservative Texas of the fifties, a hawk among doves in the sixties, and a conservative elected to a leadership position by a liberal, reform-minded Democratic caucus in the seventies, and now is an unrepentant defender of government projects in the tightfisted eighties. Jim Wright has had as strange a

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career as anyone ever to ascend to the office of Speaker.

#### MAN OF THE HOUSE

When Jim Wright went to Washington in 1955, the U.S. Senate, not the House of Representatives, was his ultimate destination. Intensely ambitious, he was not suited to the long years of waiting that were a prerequisite to power in the House. In 1961 he saw his big chance. One year earlier, the Texas Legislature had changed state election law so that Senator Lyndon Johnson could hedge his bets. Johnson was John Kennedy's running mate that year, but just in case the national ticket lost, he was allowed to seek reelection as senator at the same time. When Kennedy won, Johnson resigned his seat. The special election that followed was one of the wildest episodes in Texas political history. It also proved to be one of the most significant.

Wright was the first person to announce for the race. His idea was to scare off other opponents. The strategy didn't quite work. Seventy-one contenders followed him into the fray. Among them were William Blakley, an extreme conservative Democrat who had been appointed to fill the vacant seat until the election, and a Republican government professor from Midwestern University in Wichita Falls named John Tower.

At first Wright's chances of making the runoff appeared excellent, and he stood to receive most of the state's sizable liberal vote. He had an almost spotless liberal record. In 1947 he had been the most liberal member of the first postwar Legislature. He voted to let women serve on juries, spoke against the poll tax, tried to tax oil—and was defeated for reelection. Elected to Congress in 1954, he became the foremost liberal in the Texas delegation, a designation for which there was scant competition. But in counting on support from Texas liberals, Wright failed to reckon with their suicidal purity. In 1959 he had voted for a labor reform known as the Landrum-Griffin Act, which mandated elections for union officials. When Wright announced for the Senate, Texas labor leaders decided to punish him. They recruited Maury Maverick, Jr., of San Antonio to take votes away from Wright. Meanwhile, Henry B. Gonzalez, then a state senator from San Antonio, had joined the growing list of liberal candidates.

Wright made one last play to avoid the fracture. The first vote at the AFL-CIO convention would be whether labor should make any endorsement. Wright tried to form an alliance with Gonzalez to keep labor neutral. Gonzalez, however, insisted on trying for labor's backing, and his forces joined with Maverick's to vote for making an endorsement. In the end labor sided with Maverick, and the liberals were hopelessly split.

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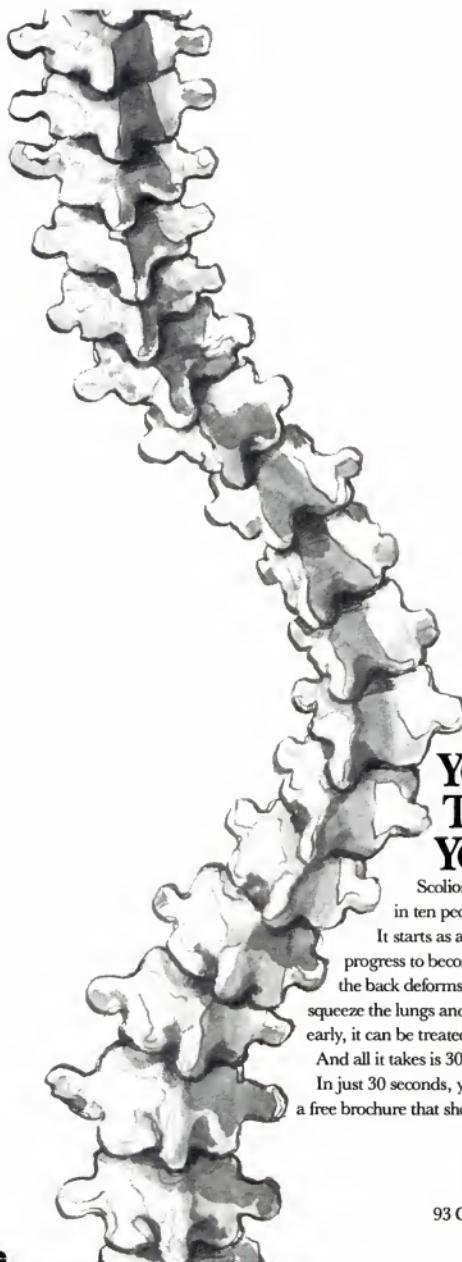
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John Tower was their only entry in the nonpartisan race. On election night Tower led the field by 137,000 votes. Wright finished third, a scant 20,000 votes behind Blakley. Maverick got the labor vote but ran a poor fifth. Gonzalez carried the minorities but ran sixth. In the runoff the liberals, having fouled their own nest, then set about to foul the conservative Democrats'. They voted for Tower, who beat Blakley by 11,000 votes. No one doubts that had Wright reached the runoff, he would have beaten Tower with ease. Instead, Texas got a Republican senator.

The liberals learned nothing from the race. When Tower ran for reelection in 1966, they spurned conservative Democrat Waggoner Carr and provided Tower with his margin of victory. But Jim Wright learned a lot. He learned that his future was in the House, not in the Senate. And he learned that he did not belong in the liberal wing of the Democratic party.

### HEIR TO THE THRONE

The sixties were dreary years for Wright. People who have tasted defeat are the exception in the political arena, and Wright had partaken of the bitter potion twice. His Senate ambitions were thwarted, and his role in Congress was minuscule. The liberal reputation of his youth had prompted the conservative Texas delegation to keep him off the major committees. Instead, he was sent to Public Works, which hands out money for dams, highways, and federal buildings.

There was nothing to do except collect seniority and wait. Colleagues from those years remember him as frustrated and cautious. He brooded over his first defeat as well as the second. His politics changed as much as his personality. "I had made the mistake of thinking I could get way out ahead of the public," Wright recalls. "I felt invincible. I didn't get beat because I was a liberal; I got beat because I was too outspoken. Nobody loves a crusader."

No one was going to accuse him of being a crusader again. He became just another pork barrel congressman. He won authorization for a barge canal for the Trinity River (it was never funded). He took advantage of Dallas' right-wing reputation to make Fort Worth the regional center for federal office buildings. In 1966 he made an exploratory start at getting into the Senate race against Tower, but although his voting record was getting steadily more conservative—he had even opposed the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964—he found that the money men back in Texas still didn't trust him. More waiting, more caution. He backed Lyndon Johnson and then Richard Nixon on the Vietnam War. He voted to require food stamp recipients to work. He voted for school prayer and against busing.

Only in the area of economics did Wright remain an old-fashioned liberal. He had, after all, been a child of the Great Depression. It had changed his life, taken

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him out of Weatherford as a boy and uprooted him to Dallas. Wright's grandfather had lost his job—his employer had fired everyone with more than 20 years of service in order to avoid having to pay an annuity that accrued after 25 years—and was about to lose his house. There was no Social Security. Wright's family moved in with his grandparents and paid enough rent to stave off foreclosure. It was not the sort of experience one cast off lightly.

Because of his record on social issues and the Vietnam War, the liberal Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) consistently rated his voting record below 50 per cent. Because of his record on economic issues, so did the conservative National Association of Business. That was a rare combination outside the Texas delegation, but a familiar one inside it. Unlike other conservative Democrats, Texans had no philosophical objection to government spending, so long as enough money found its way to Texas—and enough Texans were in positions of influence to see that it did. Jim Wright had joined the Texas mainstream.

More years went by. Waiting was not paying off. In 1975 Wright marked his twentieth anniversary in the House, and he still was not a committee chairman. He did hold the post of deputy whip, a foot soldier in the Democratic leadership, mainly because he served as a bridge between Northern and Southern Democrats. At last, in 1976, the chairman of Public Works announced his retirement, and Wright stood on the verge of a chairmanship. But he was destined for a different gavel.

Another retirement was occurring that year: House Speaker Carl Albert's. Majority leader Tip O'Neill was certain to replace Albert. The race to fill O'Neill's old job, however, was a different matter. Majority whip John McFall wanted to move up, but he had been tarnished by his association with a controversial South Korean lobbyist. The other announced contenders were Phillip Burton of California and Richard Bolling of Missouri. On the surface they were a formidable pair. Burton was the leader of the liberals and a brilliant tactician. Bolling was an intellectual, a student of how the House worked, and a volatile proponent of reforms to make it work better.

Wright did not have a legislative record to match Burton's or Bolling's. His one moment in the limelight had come in 1973, when he had led a successful floor fight against an attempt to divert highway trust funds for mass transit. But if he wasn't a legislative giant, he was a student of the House, and he knew that Burton and Bolling had enemies. Burton had been an instigator of the 1974 reforms that had diluted the seniority system. If the young liberals adored him for it, the older members who had been waiting their turns were not so enamored. As for Bolling, the quality that was regarded by some as intelligence was regarded by others—

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especially Southerners—as arrogance.

Wright told trusted friends that he thought he saw an opening. Without exception, they counseled against his getting in the race. He was too late, they said. He was too conservative for the liberal-dominated Democratic caucus. Try for whip, they advised. But he understood that the voting system in the Democratic caucus would work to his advantage. The first secret ballot would eliminate only the candidate with the lowest number of votes. Another would fall on the second ballot, and another on the third, until only one was left. He knew that he wouldn't be the first choice of very many of his colleagues—but he would be the second choice of many more.

On the first ballot, as expected, McFall fell: Burton 106, Bolling 88, Wright 77, McFall 31. Southerners and Texans made up Wright's base. Fifteen minutes later the Democratic caucus voted again. Burton 107, Wright 95, Bolling 93. Now it was down to Burton and Wright, and a rumor swept through the caucus: Burton had told some of his backers to vote for Wright, whom he thought would be easier to beat than Bolling. No one knows where the rumor started or whether it was true (Wright says emphatically that it wasn't), but some of Bolling's lieutenants were outraged. On the third ballot Wright won by a single vote, 148–147. Burton, the tactical master, was so shocked that he failed to ask for a recount. After 22 years, Jim Wright had stopped waiting.

### THE FINAL STEP

It is obvious now that the 1986 Speaker's race was really decided when Wright was elected majority leader in 1976. But it was not at all obvious then. In its 1978 profile of Wright, the *Almanac of American Politics* said, "Part of his appeal for his present post is the argument that there was need for a moderate counterweight to liberal Speaker O'Neill; that doesn't wash if Wright runs for Speaker himself. . . . If a speakership race were held today, he would probably lose to Burton or Bolling."

Wright's position remained vulnerable through the early Reagan years. The low point came in 1981, after he had intervened to assure plum committee assignments for two young Democrats from Texas, Phil Gramm and Kent Hance. Relying on their pledges to be loyal to the Democratic leadership, Wright saw that Gramm got a seat on the Budget Committee and Hance got a seat on Ways and Means. The appointments backfired horribly. Gramm promptly became a cosponsor of Reagan's budget cuts, while Hance promptly became a cosponsor of Reagan's tax cut. The Republican-conservative Democrat alliance overwhelmed the remaining Democrats, and O'Neill lost effective control of the House. To some Democrats, Wright was to blame.

But Bolling retired in 1982, and Burton

died in 1983. The Republicans lost ground in the 1982 elections, allowing O'Neill to regain control. The opposition to Wright was without a leader or an issue. Meanwhile, Wright doused liberal suspicions by remaining unfalteringly loyal to O'Neill and opposed to Reagan. (The loyalty continues: in the face of ample evidence to the contrary, Wright ranks O'Neill as "a great Speaker.") As word began to circulate that O'Neill did not intend to serve many more years, Wright's voting record moved slightly to the left. His ADA rating in 1982 climbed above 50 per cent for the first time since the fateful Senate race of 1961. At the same time, he continued to do the little things that count so much more than voting records or legislative achievements when the time comes to pick a Speaker: handing out campaign contributions, making campaign appearances, doing little favors on the floor. He used his position to court the younger House members by tapping them to make speeches and get vote counts. When O'Neill announced in 1984 that he would serve only one more term, Wright made a preemptive strike by revealing that he had pledges of support for Speaker from 184 of 267 Democrats.

The last potential challenger to Wright was the powerful chairman of Ways and Means, Dan Rostenkowski of Illinois. Wright could hardly have asked for a better opponent. (In an unflattering article about Wright last spring in the neoliberal journal, the *Washington Monthly*, Rostenkowski is called "as much of an old-style hack as Wright.") As one of the principal architects of the 1986 tax reform law, Rostenkowski might have been swept into the Speaker's office on a tide of adulation over the law. The tide, and Rostenkowski's candidacy, failed to rise.

One reason that Wright is in such good shape on the eve of the December 8 election is that the House is ready for a change. O'Neill had enormous personal popularity in the House, at least among Democrats, and in official Washington. But he was too easy a target for Republicans (a freshman Republican said in 1981, "He's just like the federal budget: fat, bloated, and out of control").

Every faction in the House has a reason to want a new Speaker. This is because the speakership is a strange office with many roles, most neglected by O'Neill. The Speaker is an engineer who must make the Rube Goldberg contraption that is the House run smoothly. But younger members protest that the House functioned ponderously under O'Neill and that its traditional three-day work week was too short. ("There's not a single member of the House who doesn't believe it can work better," says Charles Stenholm of Stamford.) The Speaker is a national figure who should understand the mood of the country apart from politics. But O'Neill shut the Republicans out; he never negotiated for their votes. The Speaker is still a regional representative, and

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Wright's Texas roots are a comfort to conservative Democrats, who want their party to move closer to the center. For most of O'Neill's tenure, conservative Democrats were blocked from major committee assignments; only after Stenholm threatened to challenge O'Neill in 1984 did conservatives get more consideration.

Finally, the Speaker is a leader of his party. This was O'Neill's strongest suit. After losing the budget and tax cut battles in 1981, O'Neill was able to lead the Democrats in line against the Reagan revolution and wait it out. Yet even House liberals are not entirely happy with his passive opposition to Reagan. The Speaker failed to promote a Democratic agenda or even provide clear Democratic alternatives to Reagan programs. "Tip is not a man who is interested in substance," John Dingell of Michigan, the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, said in the *Congressional Quarterly* this year. O'Neill preferred to play defense, taking the British view that the duty of the loyal opposition is to oppose. As the Reagan era enters its sunset years, many House Democrats are hungry for legislative initiatives from the Speaker's office that can define what the party stands for.

Late in the summer, Wright gave the House an indication of how things could work with a different kind of Speaker. The Reagan administration was making headlines with its concern about the drug problem. At the same time, drug legisla-

tion in the House was bogged down in committees with overlapping jurisdictions. With O'Neill's approval, Wright decided to use the drug issue as a showcase for his leadership. (It proved to be a sad and ironic choice: Wright's daughter and son-in-law were arrested in October under drug-related circumstances.) He gave committee chairmen tight schedules to complete their hearings. Taking the various committee proposals, Wright assembled an omnibus bill and quickly moved it onto the floor. He refrained from using House rules to block the consideration of amendments sought by conservatives—a tactic O'Neill often employed. The result: a tough bill that passed by a 392-16 vote, the kind of bipartisan margin that has been rarely seen on major issues during the Reagan years. The Wright era had begun.

### THE LESSON OF ROOM H-128

A quarter of a century has passed since the House last had a Speaker from Texas. Neither the House nor American politics bears much resemblance to the things Sam Rayburn knew. But Rayburn would have no trouble recognizing Jim Wright. "The next Speaker of the House is the last triumphant gasp of the go-along-to-get-along Democrats," the *New Republic* wrote a year ago. After all these years, Wright still has more in common with Rayburn than with any

member of the current House.

One October afternoon, Wright settled back en route to another fundraiser and talked about Rayburn: "Everybody trusted him. He never asked you to do anything that could cause you political trouble. During my '61 Senate race, he was trying to enlarge the Rules Committee. It was a big fight, very close, but he didn't ask me to come back from Texas for the vote. I came anyway, and he told everybody, 'I knew Jim would come back.'"

The similarities between the two Texas Speakers are striking. Both came to the House as liberals and moved to the center. Both faced a turning point in their sixth year (for Rayburn, the Democrats lost the House; for Wright, he lost the Senate race) and entered a long, dark waiting period. Rayburn was wedded to the House, even more than Wright. Like Wright, he found it hard to adjust to TV. (When President Eisenhower went on television to plug the Taft-Hartley labor bill, Rayburn gave the Democratic rebuttal on air.) Rayburn was a partisan Democrat, but he helped pass a Republican president's program and ran a bipartisan House, just as Wright did on the drug bill.

"I would very much like to have a relationship with the White House like Sam Rayburn had," Wright says, "but I don't see any possibility of that happening. Conversations with Ronald Reagan are not a two-way street." Reagan treats House Democrats in much the same way as O'Neill has treated House Republicans: he doesn't believe in negotiating.

In 1982 Wright went to the White House to talk about the budget. "I tried to talk in terms the president would understand," Wright says. "I said I foresaw trouble for our national defense in the future. We'll need highly skilled people to operate sophisticated weapons, but we're making it more difficult for two million Americans to go to college."

"I lost him there. 'Jim,' he said, 'I hear that a lot of these kids are taking our money and investing it in CDs.'"

Wright shook his head. "Well, what do you say?"

Wright will try to give the House some bargaining power by seizing the initiative. "I'd like to single out four or five major objectives in a year and marshal the House to them," he says. "We can't be passive." Wright wants to do something about the budget deficit, the trade deficit, energy, and economic growth.

Fine—but what? For the moment, Jim Wright is not saying. He stopped being the kind of politician who had answers in 1961 and began being the kind of politician who lets others find them. Only then do his skills come into play. In Sam Rayburn's time, this was no burden. Today it is. Consequently Jim Wright will have to endure the suspicion in the press and in the ideological left wing of his own party that he is, after all, just another back-room operator, a Tip O'Neill



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in Texas clothing, but without O'Neill's Irish charm or moral compass.

For a hint about what Wright might do in the future—and how he might do it—look to his past. He has consistently supported laws that shore up lagging U.S. industries. He favored giving U.S. flagships a guaranteed share of oil import traffic. He supported a requirement that foreign cars be built with some U.S. parts and labor. He backed the Chrysler loan guarantee. None of this is compatible with Reagan's free-market philosophy. But Wright has found ways to bring together the unlikeliest of bedfellows. In 1978 he passed an amendment that resolved a long and acrimonious dispute over whether Southwest Airlines could continue to use Love Field in Dallas. To preserve the status of DFW Airport as the primary interstate terminal—something crucial to Fort Worth—the Wright amendment restricts flights departing from Love Field to destinations only in Texas and the four adjacent states. It's not perfect, but in classic conservative Democratic style it gets the problem out of the way and lets business go on.

That's the way Sam Rayburn did things. But in his time, the Speaker could run the House with the compliance of a few key chairmen. Today reforms have undercut the absolute power of the chairmen, who can be removed by a vote of the Democratic caucus, regardless of seniority. With the decline of the seniority system, the custom that young members have to wait their turn is abrogated. Moreover, power is much more diffused. As the chairmen become weakened, power is inherited by dozens of subcommittee chairmen, many of whom have more power over legislation than the chairmen do.

Still, the modern Speaker is not as weak as he might appear. In the old days, the Speaker had no control over committee assignments; vacancies were filled by the majority party's members on Ways and Means. Today that power belongs to Steering and Policy, which is controlled by the leadership. The House may operate in a more democratic fashion, but democracy should not be confused with power. Indeed, the diffusion of power can work to a Speaker's advantage: the smaller the baronies, the harder it is to challenge the prince. Ultimately, a Speaker's authority depends on the same thing it always has: the force of his own personality.

And that brings us back to Room H-128. One afternoon in January, after the House has adjourned, James C. Wright of Texas, third in the line of succession for the presidency of the United States, will unlock the door and reconvene the Board of Education. Then he will set about the task on which his success as Speaker depends. He must resurrect the values implicit in the idea of going along to get along: that pragmatism and compromise are preferable to the ideology and confrontation that have dominated American politics since Sam Rayburn died. ♦

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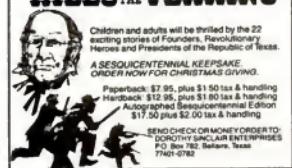
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**See Holiday Ideas, Page 250**

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**See Prime Properties, Page 252**

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# PUZZLE

## FLIPPED OUT

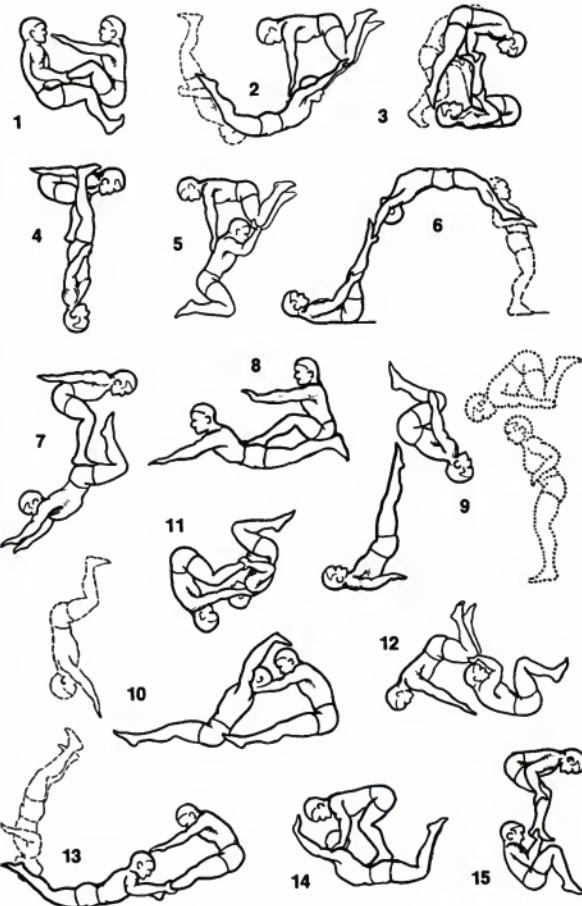
by Don Rubin

We've scrambled five different two-person tumbling exercises and numbered their parts at the right. Each of the stunts has three stages—a beginning, a middle, and a landing. Using the clues provided below, see if you can re-create each exercise in correct order. (Remember, the toughest aspect of tumbling is figuring out which way is up.)

Stunt A	7	—
Stunt B	3	—
Stunt C	—	13
Stunt D	5	—
Stunt E	—	10

### RULES:

1. Prizes for solving the puzzle will be *Texas Monthly* T-shirts.
2. Five winners will be chosen by a drawing from all correct answers. All entries become the property of *Texas Monthly*.
3. Address entries to Texas Monthly Puzzle, Box 1569, Austin, Texas 78767. Write the month of the puzzle you are entering on the envelope. Entries must be received by the twenty-second of this month. The solution will be published in two months.
4. All entries must include your name, address, and shirt size (S, M, L, XL).
5. Please do not include other communications for *Texas Monthly*.



# STATE SECRETS

## TURNING THE OTHER SHEIK

What does the firing of Sheik Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the longtime Saudi Arabian oil minister, portend for the price of oil? Not much, say Texas oil forecasters. Sure, Yamani was the villain of the precipitous oil price slide that began a year ago. Sure, he flooded the world with Saudi oil. But he had his reasons. The Saudis had borne the brunt of keeping prices up by cutting back production. Other OPEC nations were cheating on their quotas and taking away the Saudis' market share. Yamani gambled that he could regain the Saudis' market share without sacrificing too much in price. He was wrong. The Saudis, it turned out, are in a box. If they produce four million barrels a day, the price of oil will be around \$15, as it is now. If they cut back to three million barrels, the price will be around \$20. If they return to two million barrels, the price will rise to around \$30. Any way you slice it, their share of the pie is \$60 million a day. There are, however, particular advantages for Saudi Arabia in \$15 oil. The West will be unable to replace its reserves, supplies will get short, and OPEC will eventually reassess itself. Apparently, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd doesn't want to wait. But the only way he can increase the Saudis' revenue is to talk some other country into making the cutbacks. Yamani couldn't, and that's why he's gone.

## TRIAL AND ERROR

There is a widespread fear in business and political circles that the new immigration law will have a devastating effect on the state's already crippled economy. The provision that has everybody worried is one that authorizes criminal sanctions against employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens. It is no secret that a number of Texas industries are dependent upon immigrant labor: construction, hotels and motels, restaurants, and, of



Firing Sheik Yamani won't plug the leaks in Saudi Arabia's oil policy.

course, agriculture. The worries, it turns out, are for naught. Chances are that the law won't be seriously enforced in Texas. Here's what one federal prosecutor in the Western District of Texas had to say about the law: "A trial would be a waste of my time and the government's money. You couldn't get a conviction in this state if you could handpick the jury."

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS

The outcome of the governor's race was no surprise. Despite postelection analyses that attributed Mark White's loss to the economy, he really lost the race because of mistakes during his first three years in office. White actually improved his standing in the polls this year, after oil prices fell. But despite the predictable result, there were some major developments on election day.

It's time to rewrite the old rule of thumb that Republicans win in the big cities and Democrats win in the rural areas. For the second election in a row (Phil Gramm's slaughter of Lloyd Doggett being the first), the Republicans cap-

tured the countryside. In the six most populous counties, representing around 45 per cent of the total vote, White and Clements ran a dead heat. But in the 19 mid-sized counties, Clements took 54 per cent of the vote, and in the 229 small counties, he rolled up 57 per cent. White's weakness was evident in the Democratic primary, when he lost rural Texas to two token opponents. He never recovered.

Another dramatic development in the governor's race was the death of the time-honored axiom that Democrats automatically win if the turnout is large. Clements won in 1978 when only 2.3 million votes were cast but lost in 1982 when the turnout hit 3.1 million. On election day, Democrats were ecstatic and Republicans glum when they learned that the turnout was larger than in 1982. In reliable Democratic counties like Cameron (Brownsville) and Galveston, the total vote went up and White's margin went down.

The Republicans proved once again that they don't know how to win down-ballot races. This was their big opportunity: Roy Barrera could have, and should have, beaten Jim Mattox for attorney general. Barrera was invisible north of Interstate 10 and still held Mattox to 51 per cent. Another \$500,000 would have finished Mattox off. Bill Clements will pay for his party's penuriousness many times over, for Mattox will make himself into a governor-in-exile and hound Clements' every move.

The best news for Texas Democrats was the party's victory in the battle for control of the U.S. Senate. It means that Lloyd Bentsen, soon to be chairman of the august Senate Finance Committee, will almost certainly seek reelection in 1988. Conservative Democrats faced a wipeout in a possible Bush-Cuomo presidential race; Bentsen should be strong enough to keep conservatives from voting the straight Republican ticket, regardless of who's running for president. \*

—EDITED BY PAUL BURKA

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